

EVERTON TEAM GROUP IN COLOUR
PLUS CLUB SPOTLIGHT

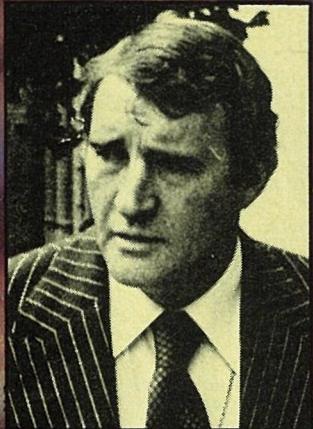
SHOOT!

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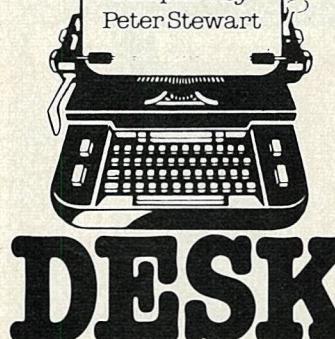
Leeds United striker John Hawley (white strip) appears to get the better of Norwich City's Phil Hoadley in this heading duel.



**WE PUT
MALCOLM
ALLISON
ON THE SPOT**

NEWS CHINA has helped WEST BROM in Europe

Compiled by Peter Stewart



EX-NORTHERN Ireland aces Danny Blanchflower, Terry Neill and Billy Bingham, currently team-bosses at Chelsea, Arsenal and Mansfield Town respectively, have shared a lot in common in their top-class careers.

Apart from playing for and managing First Division teams — Bingham did so at Everton — the celebrated trio, who amassed 171 full Irish caps, once appeared together on the same Ireland team, and also captained and bossed their country in international soccer.

EIRE CUP FOURTH ROUND

LAST season Shamrock Rovers won their 21st F.A.I. Cup despite drawing away from home in every round. On Sunday next (February 11th) Rovers are at home to old rivals Shelbourne in the Fourth Round of the Eire Cup, which is where the "minnows" get their chance against the 16 League of Ireland clubs.

Most attractive pairing is the Waterford-Bohemians tie at Kilcohan Park. Bohs, the reigning League Champions, will be anxious to reverse last year's scoreline when Waterford beat them 2-0 at Dalymount.

The Blues' only Cup win was way back in 1937 and Tommy Jackson will be hoping to end the long wait by taking the Cup to the South-East in his first season in charge.

Other attractive ties are the meetings of 1975 winners Home Farm and Finn Harps, the 1974 victors at Tolka Park, and in-form Athlone Town against last year's Finalists Sligo Rovers, at St Mel's Park.

Fourth Round Draw

Athlone Town v. Sligo Rovers
Cork Alberts v. Wembley
Crofton Celtic v. Drogheda United
Dundalk v. St Patrick's Athletic
Galway Rovers v. Cork Celtic
Home Farm v. Finn Harps
Shamrock Rovers v. Shelbourne
Thurles Town v. Limerick
Tramore Athletic v. Swilly Rovers
Waterford v. Bohemians

RON ATKINSON (right) celebrated one year as manager of West Bromwich Albion by seeing his side go top of Division One after the draw at Norwich.

Yet Atkinson wasn't too happy. "I suppose it's a sign of the times when you're disappointed after drawing away from home, but we should have won."

"We always go away to attack. Fans now know what we can do. We're competitive, but still worth watching."

"I've made the team more positive and the lads certainly excite me."

"In my second year I hope for a natural progression. I want to see the side develop, not be a one season wonder, which is why I paid half a million pounds for David Mills."

BETWEEN its formation, in 1880, and the end of the 1949-50 season, the Irish Football Association (now Northern Ireland) could select players from all over Ireland.

The last time Republic of Ireland born stars appeared for the Irish F.A. on English soil was in a 2-2 Goodison Park draw, on November 5, 1947, in which no fewer than SIX Southerners figured, namely, Con Martin (Aston Villa), Johnny Carey (Man. United), Willie Walsh (Man. City), Davy Walsh (West Brom), Peter Farrell and Tommy Eglington (both Everton).

"Last summer, we went to China and some people felt it was wrong at the end of such an exhausting season. Yet the difficulties we encountered in a totally different environment have helped us in our U.E.F.A. Cup travels this season."

"We've managed to overcome obstacles that without the trip to China we may not have encountered before."

Ron contributes to our feature about escalating transfer fees—pages 14 & 15.



GATESHEAD Stadium should become a centre for top flight soccer. That's the dream of the town council's parks and recreation committee.

The council have ambitious plans for the development of the stadium, which is recognised as one of the country's top athletics centres thanks largely to the help of international runner Brendan Foster.

COVENTRY were counting record gate receipts after drawing their F.A. Cup Third Round Cup-tie 2-2 against West Brom. on Tuesday, January 11.

A crowd of 38,046 paid £52,000 . . . the largest crowd since Coventry played Derby in the F.A. Cup on January 27, 1974 — a Sunday.

Halifax out to win votes

THE odds against Halifax Town reaching Football League safety are lengthening and already chairman, Andrew Delaney, his directors, and manager George Kirby, are striving to impress the First and Second Division clubs which hold 44 of the 49 re-election votes.

Only Championship progress — at least 36 points in the second half of the season — will give the side a chance of finishing in the "safe" position of 20th . . . as they did last season.

It could be done, says Delaney, and Kirby, after less than three months in the job, won't rule out the possibility until statistics have done so.

Meanwhile, he has transfer-listed Kevin Johnston, record £25,000 midfield

signing from Huddersfield, John Dixon ex-Barnsley winger, strikers Franny Firth (ex-Huddersfield) and Joe Carroll (previously with Oldham) and defender Tony Loska (ex-Chester).

Before the March deadline expect new faces at The Shay. And they will be long-term signings . . . to gear a Fourth Division promotion drive in 1979-80, not to hibernate in the Northern Premier League.

• I've been asked to mention the London branch of the Halifax Town Supporters' Club. Anyone wishing to join should write to Brian Byles, 13 Parry Road, South Norwood, London SE25 6RJ, or 'phone 01-653 4430 after 6 p.m.



GLASGOW Rangers manager John Greig says that in his opinion Tommy McLean is having his best ever season at Ibrox Park.

Most of the players and fans would agree with Greig's verdict, but there is one notable opponent. Tommy McLean himself!

"I know things have tended to look good over recent weeks," says the Rangers winger, "but there have been times in the past when I think I have been in better form than I am now."

That's modesty for you!

WE WANT KILMORE HERE

LIVERPOOL will face a lot of competition if they want to sign former England youth star Kevin Kilmore from Scunthorpe.

Spurs, Q.P.R. and Ipswich are among a host of First Division clubs considering paying the asking price of £150,000 for this talented youngster.

But expect Liverpool to get their man in the end. They have a good association with the club that provided them with Ray Clemence and Kevin Keegan.



SUPER KIDS

IT'S kick-off time for thousands of would-be Kevin Keegans this year.

From schools all over Britain, boys and girls, aged seven to 16, will set out in the quest for the F.A.'s Gold Award for soccer skills.

The scheme is called Superskills and was launched recently in 23,000 schools throughout the country by the F.A. and English Schools F.A.

CURRENT Football League players including Englishmen Alan Ball (Southampton) and Ray Wilkins (Chelsea), four Welshmen, six Northern Irishmen, and three from Eire, became full internationals as teenagers. But you won't find a solitary Scot who did so.

AMBITION

BOB CARTER, the 18-year-old Norwich centre-half, has one big ambition outside of football — he would like to be a sportswriter.

King's Lynn-born Bob says: "I read all the sportswriters' comments in the national newspapers because, one day, I would like to be one of them."

Bob, who first joined Norwich as a schoolboy in 1975, and signed professional last June, has another string to his bow also.

He is a professional cricketer with Northamptonshire and has played for England Young Cricketers.

Winner of Norfolk honours at schoolboy and Youth level, he counts as his proudest moment in the game so far the winning of a competition with Norwich in Stuttgart, Germany, in March last year.

The young defender has always respected two particular players, England internationals, Bobby Moore and Paul Madeley.

"They both had a lot of skill and I have made a point of studying their techniques," he says.

FULHAM have launched a new-style lottery, offering £1,000 instantly and thousands of cash prizes every week. On average, one in every six tickets is a winner.

The tickets are on sale in newsagents and pubs in the Fulham area.

FACTastic

AT the end of the 1972-73 season Arsenal (Woolwich Arsenal then) finished bottom of Division One with only 26 goals in 38 games, the lowest ever total in the First Division. Their leading goalscorer was C. E. Randall — with FOUR goals! No wonder they moved at the end of that inglorious season to Highbury!

ALTHOUGH Peter Osgood has an 18-month contract with Chelsea, I hear he will be returning to the United States this summer... but NOT to the Philadelphia Fury.

A PROBLEM SPENDING

OLDHAM's manager Jimmy Frizzell has money to spend in the transfer market — but can't capture the players he wants.

"It's a real problem," he explains. "Obviously we are not in a position to lash out £250,000 on one player, but have made a number of very reasonable offers without any success."

"You would have thought that, say for £150,000, you could land a couple of very useful players."

"You might have been able to a few years ago, but not anymore. But I can promise our fans that the search will go on until we succeed. We have a complete dossier on players who I feel can do a job for Oldham."

Lost season for Villa

THE 1978-79 campaign is the season which never got off the ground so far as Aston Villa are concerned.

They have been plagued by numerous injuries to such key players as Andy Gray, Brian Little, Alex Cropley and Frank Carroddus.

The knee injury sustained in training by Gray was the last blow for manager Ron Saunders.

He said: "These injuries have not really given anyone at Villa Park a real chance to settle down. This is the main reason why we have not really hit the kind of form we are capable of producing."

Gray has suffered two bad injuries which culminated in a cartilage operation, while Carroddus has had two cartilage operations in the space of eight weeks.

Another of the Villa stars to have been hit by injury this season is England defender John Gidman seen here with his lovely wife, Claire, proudly posing for SHOOT with their son Patrick John, born just before Christmas.



SNOW-CLEARING SQUADS

SQUADS of youngsters should be enlisted to clear snow from football pitches during bad weather.

Alan Hardaker, secretary of the Football League, makes the suggestion in appealing to clubs to make greater efforts to avoid the postponement of games.

"Forty or 50 years ago games were played in far worse conditions and even in more recent years I feel greater efforts were made to get games played," he says.

"In my time at Portsmouth, I can remember 200 marines clearing the snow off the pitch so a match could go ahead. Today this doesn't seem to be done."

"Youngsters, for example, could be asked to volunteer to shovel snow off the grounds and clear the terraces."

Over 100 volunteers (above) worked for more than five hours on the morning of Sheffield Wednesday's Third Round F.A. Cup tie against Arsenal at Hillsborough last month. Even manager Jackie Charlton joined in.

The snow-clearers were rewarded when Wednesday drew in front of 34,000 to begin the first of their magnificent marathon replays.

SCOTTISH goalkeepers, notably Alan Rough, are getting a bit fed up with English soccer-writers criticising them nearly every week as they go through a trial by television.

Recently Scottish television's SCOTSPORT decided to turn the glare on English goalkeepers to show up their mistakes. The two 'keepers who were cruelly exposed? None other than Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton!

Footnote: There are three English goalkeepers in the Premier Division . . . Roy Barnes and Peter Latchford (Celtic) and Peter's brother Dave, of Motherwell. Both Latchfords are in the reserves . . .

PETER Mellor, former F.A. Cup Final goalkeeper with Fulham, is a major force in Portsmouth's battle into the Fourth Division promotion placings.

But he nearly quit active participation last summer in order to go into the management side of the game.

Said Peter, aged 31: "I had a couple of offers, but then I looked around me and saw Kevin Keelan still playing at 37, John Jackson still going strong at 36

TONY Beasley, the 21-year-old Cardiff left-winger, has already had experience with two other League clubs.

He played some games for Southampton as a youngster and also appeared for Sheffield United before joining Cardiff as a professional in March last year.

An Ashton Keynes boy, he played for Wiltshire Under-12 and Under-14 teams and then moved on to Trowbridge Town, where he won their Youth player award for 1975-76.

Mellor's glad he didn't quit

HOW about this for big match preparation. I discovered this week that Brazil were worried about the effect Wembley's famous "roar" might have on their international side when they played England at Wembley last year.

So, by special arrangement with the Wembley management, a tape-recording of the "roar" was played to the team in the tunnel the day before the kick-off.

BOLTON Boys' best kept secret in reaching the last 16 of the English Trophy for the first time was that striker Chris Conway played the Fourth and Fifth Round matches with a broken nose.

He wore the number nine shirt but moved back into midfield for the 5-1 victory over Warrington and the 3-1 success over Flint.

MOTHERWELL have hardly been out of the transfer news this season, both as buyers and sellers. They have bought Dave Latchford (Birmingham), Jim Boyd (Clyde), Jim Capaldi (Aston Villa), Mike Larnach (Newcastle), Joe Smith (Aberdeen), Peter Carr (New England Tea Men) and Paul Wilson (Celtic) as well as selling Peter Marinello (Fulham) and Stuart McLaren (Dundee) and almost parting with Ian Clinging for £90,000 to Leicester City.

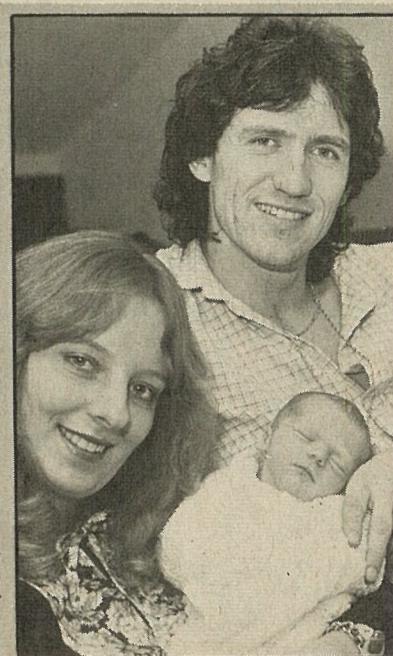
After that little lot it will not surprise you to hear that the Fir Park side have now been linked with Malcolm Robertson (Hearts) and Gordon Crommond (Ayr United). Down in Motherwell something is certainly stirring!

and Peter Bonetti, at a similar age still in action, so I decided there was plenty of League football still left in me."

Added Mellor, who joined Portsmouth from Hereford: "I'm glad that I did, because this is a really exciting season at Fratton Park, and the spirit in the dressing room is marvellous. We all feel we are going to win promotion this season."

MANCHESTER City are to become the first British club to develop an outdoor artificial training pitch.

F.A. Cup holders Ipswich Town, opened an indoor training ground last year.



Experience stops at Crewe

THE old tag about all change at Crewe has a new meaning when applied to footballers because Alexandra seem to attract players with a wealth of experience.

With the departure of Wyn Davies, who wore the shirts of nine League clubs including Newcastle and the two Manchester teams, comes the link up with two men who are now with their eighth League club.

Former Scotland winger Jimmy Robertson — he first found fame with Spurs in England — is joined at Gresley Road by Neil Warnock, who moved across country from York.

Robertson also numbers Scottish clubs Cowdenbeath and St Mirren, and Arsenal, Ipswich, Stoke and Walsall in his list, while Neil has pulled on the jerseys of Aldershot, Barnsley, Chesterfield, Hartlepool, Rotherham and Scunthorpe. He scored some 33 League goals and Robertson 76 before joining their latest clubs.

But Crewe's player/manager Warwick Rimmer, who came from Bolton, has them both licked in terms of appearances as he has topped 600 first-team games with his two clubs.



UNITED CLAIMING COMPENSATION

MANCHESTER United are claiming compensation from England to cover the cost of Stuart Pearson's wages since he was injured on international duty.

The sum could amount to a staggering £15,000. Pearson (above) was injured playing for England in the British Championship last May.

It is nine months since Pearson damaged a knee. United are also claiming from Scotland for the injury to Joe Jordan who was injured playing against Portugal in Lisbon in December.

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Sean Padden of West Norwood, London, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

LET'S HAVE SPONSORS — NOW!

I WAS very interested to read about the deal involving B.P., which enabled Hamburger SV to keep Kevin Keegan for another year. The oil company are the club's new sponsors and it's probable that without their cash Kevin would have moved on.

When are Football League clubs going to have similar facilities? More and more of our stars are being wooed by the big-money Continental clubs and it would be tragic if the likes of Liam Brady went to France or Spain.

Too often our authorities act too late, closing the stable door after the horse has bolted. Our clubs should be allowed to have sponsors and those who feel seeing "B.P." or another name on shirts "just isn't football" should face up to the harsh reality of the game.

It seems to me the British players are just about the lowest-paid professionals in Europe, and unless our clubs can have the money of sponsors to pay wages in line with West Germany, we're going to see an exodus of top stars.

- Sponsors haven't ruined the game abroad and I see no reason why they would in Britain. The extra revenue would surely benefit everyone in football.

Penalties

WITH all the difficulties presented by replays in the F.A. Cup, wouldn't it be a good idea to have ties decided by penalties if the teams are still level after the first replay?

GRAHAM JONES,
SOUTHPORT.

- I hate to see European ties decided by spot-kicks, although replays in those competitions are impractical so penalties are the only answer. I think sides prefer to play until there is a definite result — anyway, there aren't many ties that go past one replay.

Rocky Winner

WE'VE seen some bizarre own-goals by goalkeepers recently on T.V. One even threw the ball into his own net! The 'keeper of my Sunday side — who I shan't name! — was involved in a similar incident during a recent game played on rock-hard ground.

He collected a high cross safely about one yard from his goal-line and held the ball as the players went upfield.

The goalie dropped the ball in order to take a few steps ... the ball hit a bump on the pitch ... and ricocheted back into the goal. If that wasn't bad enough, it proved to be the winner!

JOHN TUTT,
BARNSLEY.

- At least that's one thing in favour of muddy pitches!



Danny's the Boy

AS a Chelsea fan I must say how delighted I am (and all of our fans are, I'm sure) that Danny Blanchflower is about to save us. Over the past few years, it's become who was the Chelsea manager ... now it's WHO-RAY!

We supporters have seen some talented players at Stamford Bridge but we never seemed to have a balanced team. No one expects Danny to work miracles, yet with the players he has, plus the return of Micky Droy (above) Chelsea don't need miracles, just a good manager.

We have a modern stadium, gate potential and now a great manager. These combine to make a successful club.

A. WHITTEN,
LONDON.

- I feel Chelsea will need a near-miracle to survive, but maybe Danny can give the club some luck of the Irish. It's about time they had some.

Pen-Pal

AM a Singaporean boy and I'd like to correspond with boys and girls in England who support the national side and Manchester United.

RAJA,
BLK. 209, ROOM 291 - H,
BOON LAY PLACE,
SINGAPORE 22.

THE question in most of the letters I've received this year has been: "Will Chelsea be relegated?" It's a difficult one to answer. Obviously no professional in any sport will ever admit defeat until all has been lost, so despite our precarious position, everyone at Stamford Bridge will be battling to the very end of the season.

Even though we've picked up a few very welcome points, we realise we have one hell of a fight on our hands, but if enthusiasm and determination mean anything, we'll survive because nothing less than 100 per cent is being given all the time.

I've been through relegation before in 1974/75 when Chelsea eventually went down with Luton Town and Carlisle United. Then, I'd just come into the side and we faced a hopeless task.

This time, we've had a lot longer to do something about it and with Danny Blanchflower making his presence felt quickly, spirits are high at Chelsea.

individual, but he's been grafting away within the pattern of the team, proving to be a bargain.

Perhaps it's too early to judge young Eamonn Bannon, our £200,000 signing from Hearts. Coming into English soccer isn't easy, and to join a club in relegation trouble makes it even more difficult. However from what I've seen Eamonn will prove to be a valuable asset.

Micky Droy is hardly a new boy! Having missed so much of this season, his return in the New Year was almost like a new signing and his presence gave our defence a more solid look. Micky is a very underrated player. I know every club has injury problems, but we've been without Gary Locke, Micky Droy and David Hay for long periods and their skill and experience was sadly missed at the back.

I try not to think about relegation. We very nearly went down last season, when after a good start to the year we somehow lost our way, and

'CHELSEA TO

RAY WILKINS
Writes for you





WILL BATTLE THE END'

ABOVE

"Greeting Eamonn Bannon at Stamford Bridge after his transfer."

BETWEEN

"Clive Walker scores our winner against Manchester City."

RIGHT

"We'll have to be at our best to do well at West Bromwich."



in the end had to pull out all the stops to prevent us from going down.

People say to me: "Oh, you wouldn't want to play in Division Two," and it's true. No First Division player does! It's all hypothetical at the moment; any decision in that respect will be made if and when the time comes.

Ron Greenwood gave me a big boost when he named me for the England squad against Northern Ireland because I hadn't played a game for weeks due to ligament trouble. Although I was fit, I still hadn't proved myself in a match, so for the England boss to name me was just what I needed.

England means a lot to me. Ron Greenwood has created a good atmosphere in his squad and one of his secrets is his loyalty to players. Not over-loyalty, because he wouldn't pick anyone out of sentiment, but one poor game doesn't mean disaster. I'm writing this before the European Champion-

ten, the whole picture changes and it's this consistency Chelsea have been aiming for. We haven't set ourselves any targets other than to be more consistent.

We'll need to be at our best when we face West Bromwich Albion at The Hawthorns this Saturday (February 10th). Albion are, perhaps, the revelation of the season and are set to capture a honour.

Manager Ron Atkinson has been at The Hawthorns for just over a year and in that time the team have progressed a great deal.

Albion are strong at the back, where John Wile and Alistair Robertson form one of the most effective partnerships in the League.

In midfield, Tony Brown goes on and on . . . scoring as regularly as ever. Young Bryan Robson has made a place for himself, impressing in a quieter, but equally effective way.

In attack, Albion have their two black stars, Laurie Cunningham and Cyrille Regis. Last season Laurie wasn't even a regular. Now, he's been called up by Ron Greenwood and Regis should follow in his footsteps soon.

It says much for Albion's strength that David Mills, who cost them half



ship-tie against Northern Ireland, which I hope to be talking about in my next article. To be honest, I haven't been expecting to play, happy simply to be involved in international football again.

Re-joining England has been a welcome relief from the strain of relegation . . . a break from routine. But, of course, Chelsea have occupied most of my thoughts this season.

I don't go along with those who say Birmingham and ourselves are as good as down. If any side hits a run and takes, say, nine points from

a million pounds from Middlesbrough, started by sitting on the sub's bench!

We had a perfect start against Albion at The Bridge earlier this season, Steve Wicks scoring an early goal. But we threw away this advantage and lost 1-3.

Here's hoping for better luck when we go to The Hawthorns.

Malcolm Allison talks about his chequered career at Crystal Palace . . . his sensational return to Manchester City . . . his association with manager Tony Book . . . how he aims to put the club back on top . . . and his hopes for the future.

SHOOT: Many people say for all your reputation as a great coach you have to prove yourself all over again at Manchester City. Others say you have wasted your talent in the six years since you left Maine Road. How do you react to these suggestions?

ALLISON: A football coach is only as good as the last performance of his team. Of course I accept that Manchester City have come to me because they believe I have a certain quality to offer them. They know that more than ten years ago

was some bad feeling. Maybe I was too intolerant of his position. The point is that for most of our time at Maine Road the partnership was marvellous . . . one of those perfect things which you can't plan for, can't engineer.

SHOOT: Critics say that your major wrong turning at Maine Road was to disrupt the 1972 team, just when it seemed poised to win the championship, by the signing of Rodney Marsh. Is that signing one of your regrets?

ALLISON: No way. There are so many ingredients in a successful football club. One is efficiency. Another is magic; that quality

Right: Allison with the European Cup-Winners' Cup, won by City in 1970. Below: Joe Mercer first brought Big Mal to Maine Road. Bottom: A happy start with Crystal Palace in 1973.



I had City playing better than any team in England. Whether I can reproduce that performance remains to be seen. The important thing for me is that City have come to me and said: "We need you". Since I left them I've had a lot of experience, some of it stimulating, some of it rather depressing. I've made some mistakes and my luck has run badly at times. But I've never stopped thinking about the game and I've never gone back on my basic principles of the game. I think I've learned a lot about myself in the last six years. I've learned about the dangers of trying to do too much too quickly.

SHOOT: If you had your time over again, would you make the same decision as you did in the spring of 1973. Would you have walked away from Maine Road?

ALLISON: No question about that. For the first time I sensed I was having no effect on the players. That was terribly frustrating. I started making excuses and didn't like that.

SHOOT: Looking back over your first period at Manchester City, do you have any regrets?

ALLISON: My basic feeling is that life is too short for regrets, but of course you have regrets every day of your life. Mostly I wish my partnership with Joe Mercer had finished differently. I felt he should have given me more control, more status earlier than he did, so there

which draws the crowds through the streets on a wet afternoon, makes them look forward to the weekend. I felt Rodney Marsh would add that ingredient, at last get City's crowds in line with those of Manchester United. For five years we had been murdering United as a football team. But still they beat us at the turnstile.

If I made a mistake, I overestimated Rodney's ability to integrate himself into the team in the required time. I was also a little surprised by the reaction of some of the first teamers. There was a certain amount of jealousy from within the dressing room. I thought I could cut through that. But if that was a mistake, I think it is one I'm likely to be making for the rest of my career. Rodney

Marsh is one of those talents which make the game live.

SHOOT: Your time at Crystal Palace was chequered, to say the least. How do you review your performance at Selhurst Park?

ALLISON: I sleep quite easily. I look at Crystal Palace now and I think "I had something to do with setting up that club". It gives me great satisfaction. I took Terry Venables to Palace and also John Cartwright. They are two brilliant young men. Maybe I was too optimistic in the first season in the Second Division, when we were relegated. I tried to move too quickly with introducing young players, clearing out a professional staff which numbered almost 60. If Crystal Palace win the Football League Championship — as I sus-

pect they might in the next few years — I will salute Terry Venables for some magnificent work. And I will also think that all that depression, all the sleepless nights, I experienced a few years ago had a point. On the basis that a manager should be judged on what he leaves behind him, I believe much of my time at Palace was in fact well spent.

SHOOT: What were your emotions when you returned to Maine Road?

ALLISON: When I arrived at the ground the place was surrounded by photographers and television people. I got a lot of waves from people in the street. The truth is I was very moved. Manchester City, you see, has always been my team. I was brought up in the suburbs of South London but the result which always mattered to me was Manchester City. When

SHOOT PUTS ALLISON ON THE SPOT



Joe Mercer asked me to join him at Maine Road — after I left Plymouth Argyle, or rather, was sacked by Plymouth Argyle — I already had an appointment to see Raich Carter, then manager of Middlesbrough. But I didn't think twice when Joe said: "Come and help me build up Manchester City." I remember when I went for my interview with the City directors, I said: "Look, pay me on results. If you like the look of me in a few months time give me a contract. In the meantime, I'll take £30 a week."

SHOOT: There has been a lot of discussion about your title "Overlord of coaching" and the fact that you are returning to Manchester City UNDER Tony Book, whose League career you personally shaped. Do you feel uneasy about the new situation?

ALLISON: When I met Tony Book in a hotel in Bristol the evening of City's approach to me there was a lot of hard talking. But it didn't concern titles. One of my disputes with Joe Mercer was about titles. Well, that stuff doesn't worry me these days. What I wanted to know from Tony was what sort of say I would have in the preparation of the team, the tactics, and selection. Tony was straight with me. I would have been surprised had he been otherwise. Overwhelming everything else was the fact that suddenly I was being invited to run one of the most talented pools of

football talent in England. When Sunderland were interested in me a few weeks earlier I wasn't too tempted, even though it is a fine club with a tremendous potential. I meant it when I said I was determined to settle down in Plymouth and build a nice little team in the West Country. But when I was saying that I was also conscious that if every City came for me it would be a much tougher decision. Tony Book is an honest guy and I know we can work together.

SHOOT: You have been described as one of the world's great coaches — and also a man with a genius for personal publicity. Do you not feel you could have done more with your career?

ALLISON: Maybe. My son Mark recently described me as a failure and that hurt me very deeply. I said to him that really he ought to postpone his judgment. Of course,

ALLISON: A very reasonable expectation for this club is to win the European Cup. There is some tremendous young talent, such as Peter Barnes, Paul Power and Gary Owen. Joe Corrigan is in the top three goalkeepers in England. Asa Hartford is a tremendous force in the middle of the park. You only have to look around the place to realise the club's potential. An appetite for success has been created. Between 1965 and '70 the Second Division Championship, the First Division title, the F.A. Cup, the European Cup-Winners' Cup, and the League Cup was won. Ever since then City has been a major club, a member of the Super League — but the only trophy has been the League Cup. This fact has probably created a lot of tension within the club. What I have to do here is free some of the tension. Maybe create a more optimistic,

many people in the upper reaches of the game consider me beyond the pale. Too brash. Too arrogant. But I also know that I know about football . . . and know that they know I know, if you know what I mean. I've never lost confidence that people would want to employ me. You only have to look around the game at the moment. Jobs are chasing men, rather than the other way around. There was a time when I wanted to put coaching behind me. I thought it was a phase of my life that had gone. But one of the things that I have learned — maybe the most important thing of all to do with football — is that you should always play to your strength. My strength is knowing the potential of footballers. And coaching them to that potential.

SHOOT: In the last five years your life has been split between Lon-

don; Istanbul; Memphis, Tennessee; Plymouth; and now you are back to that place where you first hit the headlines. The recent headlines announced: "Big Mal goes home". Has Big Mal gone home to stay?

ALLISON: It would be nice and in a way it would be fitting, but there are no guarantees in football, are there? In football the wise man always keeps a bag half-packed. Let's put it this way, I would hate to leave Maine Road again without the feeling of achievement I felt last time. At the finish, and after the good times and the wild times, I know that the thing I enjoy most is working with top-class footballers. Manchester City are one of those clubs which deal in the best players. I helped to make this so. It would be good to enjoy the benefits . . . right up to the end of my career.



I accept that I have taken a few wrong turnings. In my early days as a coach and manager I was very impatient, very intolerant. I couldn't stand what I considered inefficiency on the part of referees. The result was that I got into a lot of trouble with the authorities. There was, maybe, a time when I thought I knew all the answers. Well, at 52 I would not dare say that now. I've learned some pretty tough lessons.

SHOOT: How long will you be content to be "overlord of coaching"?

ALLISON: As long as it takes to make a success of the team and as long as I feel I'm getting some response from the team. My first day back at Maine Road I was asked if it was possible to swing back into the old routine — how was it that I left the club six years ago saying that I had lost my effect and now I was starting again. Well, I don't see the problem. I've spent some time away from the game. I was more than a year in Istanbul, where I got a lot of time to think about the game in objective terms. I feel that six years away from the First Division will act as a positive asset. I've given myself a little distance. In fact I think that every top coach and manager should take a break from the game every few years.

SHOOT: What do you expect to achieve with City?



Top: Allison doesn't regret signing Rodney Marsh. Above: Gary Owen, one of several brilliant youngsters at Manchester City.

confident atmosphere.

SHOOT: Were you surprised when City came for you?

ALLISON: Not entirely. Tony Book had made a few phone calls and we had had some talks about the situation. I've always known that



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ANSWERS

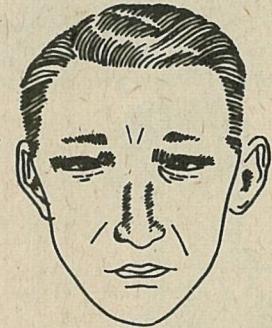
No. 11

What do you know about the Police?

1. Can a bloodstain be identified as coming from a particular person?



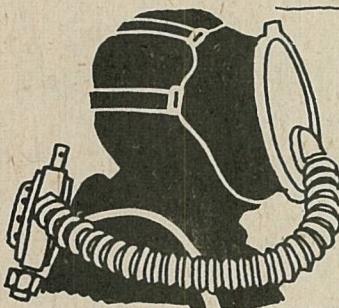
2. What is the minimum number of persons required on an identification parade?



3. The Bow Street Runners were the forerunners of the modern Police. When were they formed?



4. Do Policemen who stand outside No. 10 Downing Street come from a specialised branch of the Police Force?



5. Would you ever see a Policeman dressed like this?

This is the eleventh in a series depicting the background, present-day work and development of Britain's Police Force.

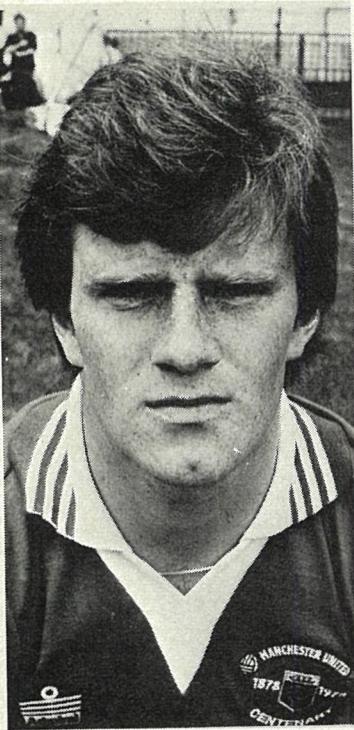
For further information about the Police write to:-

Police Quiz, (J24), Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

1. No. Unlike finger-prints, blood has no unique characteristics.
2. Eighty-three in 1750.
3. Human blood can be divided into groups and evidence can sometimes prove that blood belongs to a certain person.
4. Yes, a number of Police forces have come from search units.
5. Some human blood could not have come from a certain person.

TWO MAN. UTD. STRIKERS AIM FOR DIFFERENT GOALS

'I want to learn the job first'



says ANDY RITCHIE

the former England Under-15 schools striker and Youth international.

For Docherty spotted Ritchie playing for Stockport Boys and lost no time in signing him when he managed Manchester United.

"Mr Docherty wasn't at United long after that, so I never had a chance to get to know him well, But I have high regard for his judgment."

Ritchie might have become a PE teacher had Docherty not snapped him up. He gained five GCE 'O' levels and would have stayed on at school had he failed his exams.

Now, he stands on the threshold of a glittering career. He has forged a dangerous strike partnership with Steve Paterson in United's reserves and in time will threaten the first team places of Jordan, Pearson and Greenhoff.

But Ritchie prefers to deal in realities rather than possibilities.

"I want to learn the job first. People shouldn't underestimate the quality of First Division football," he insists. "It's much quicker than you think. You have to be alert. As a striker you need to work an understanding with someone. I was beginning to get a partnership with Jimmy Greenhoff."

England caps

Ritchie enjoyed scoring goals long before he pulled on long trousers for the first time. He scored nine goals for his Cub's side once and hammered seven in a Manchester Sunday League game.

He won eight caps for England Schools, played for England Youth in the 1977-78 Mini World Cup, and has scored almost 20 goals for United's reserves and junior teams this season.

Andy Ritchie is fully aware of the pressures that might be imposed on him if he adds to the handful of first team appearances he has made in two seasons.

"I haven't tasted fan worship much yet, although I get fan mail, some of it from Norway and Denmark. I live with my parents in Cheadle — and that makes it easier. The bright lights don't beckon me."

On his day off, he likes nothing better than to curl-up on the sofa and listen to David Bowie or Pink Floyd, or drive his Datsun 120 car into the countryside.

On match days, he is never happier than when he is trying to burst the back of the net.

ANDY Ritchie is a modest, unassuming young professional, yet needs no prompting to point the way he aims to progress with Manchester United.

His ambition is simply to win a regular first team place at United — and then a full England cap.

He doesn't mind whether he partners Joe Jordan, Stuart Pearson or Jimmy Greenhoff at the spearhead of United's attack, providing he achieves his objective soon.

"I'm delighted with the progress I'm making, but shan't feel entirely satisfied until I'm a regular first team member," says Ritchie, who celebrated his 18th birthday last November.

Those who saw his debut goal for United in their 3-1 defeat of Derby this season will not doubt his ability to achieve stardom.

Jimmy Greenhoff worked an opening on the left, crossed cleverly, and there was Ritchie's neat 5ft 10 inches frame, weighing just under 11 stones springing high above Derby's static defence to volley an unstoppable goal.

"I was pleased with that one, even though it came off my studs," explained Ritchie. "I wondered afterwards whether it might not have infringed the laws. My boots were flying a bit high."

But the goal stood, and it drew praise even from Derby's manager Tommy Docherty.

The Doc knows better than perhaps anyone the capabilities of

JOE Jordan is still a better known face in Yorkshire than he is in Lancashire.

The reason is Joe still commutes from his home in Leeds every day. So he's a relative stranger to Manchester, and the bitter rivalry between United and City that divided the town.

Even so, he knew what it meant to his team-mates when he cracked an 89th minute winner in the derby game at Old Trafford in September.

Says Jordan: "That was the happiest moment since I signed for United. As I don't live in Manchester, I'm not involved in the build-up to the game in the week and I don't really feel the rivalry between the sides.

"In fact, that was only the second derby game of any description I've played in."

United have been making a habit of grabbing late goals this season but Jordan doesn't believe there's any reason for people to label them 'lucky'.

"We are a side who are prepared

to keep going for 90 minutes and getting those late goals proves that. Our attitude is right and it doesn't really matter whether you get the goals in the first minute or the last.

"A lot of sides would be settling for a draw if they found themselves level with a minute or so to go, but we believe in pressing till the final whistle."

The big criticism of Jordan, of course, is he's a centre-forward who doesn't score goals. It is rather remarkable such a high-priced striker should have less than 50 goals to his credit after almost 200 League games.

Before this season, he had only 38 goals to show from 184 games in the English First Division.

Jordan is aware of the criticism but he shrugs it off in the same way he brushes off most defenders.

"I'm out there to do a job and as long as Manchester United want me to do it, and think I'm capable of it, I won't worry about the critics.

"The fans at Old Trafford seem

'The fans appreciate what I do'

says JOE JORDAN

to appreciate what I do. They've been very fair to me since I came here from Leeds."

It cost United £350,000 to get Jordan from Leeds 13 months ago, and in 14 games last term he collected three goals. His value, however, is in the confusion he causes in opposition defences, allowing other players to go through the gaps he creates by his worrying.

"We made a disappointing start to the season but we're putting things together more now and I expect us to have a very good season."

The Old Trafford side have been criticised for lack of flair this season but Jordan, like the rest of his team-mates, reckons they're still capable of turning it on like former United sides.

The important thing, after some of their disappointing form last term, was for the side to build up their confidence.

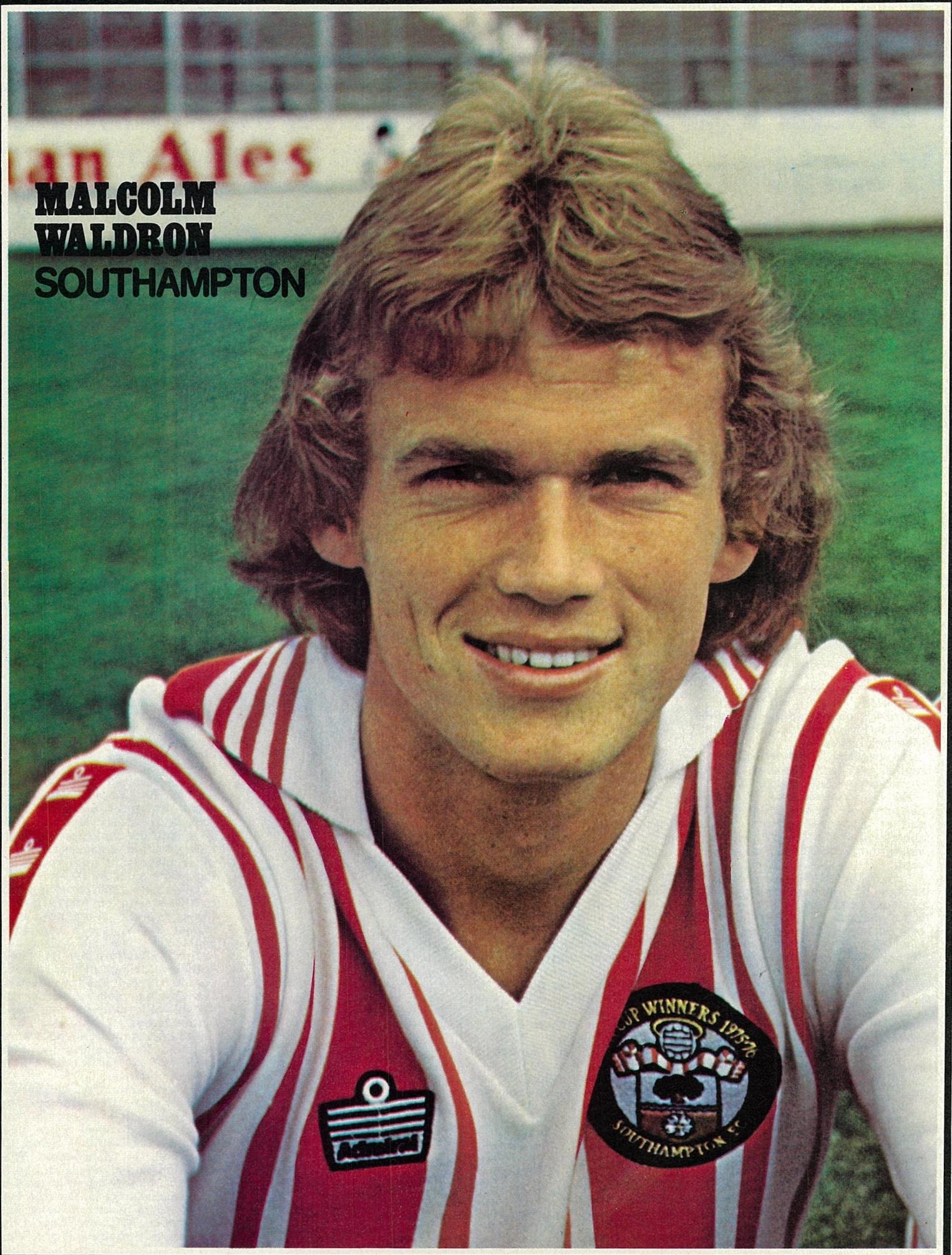
They've done that by working hard for each other and now think they're capable of blossoming out.

But United have never been satisfied with simply being the best club in Manchester. Their ambitions are always a lot higher.

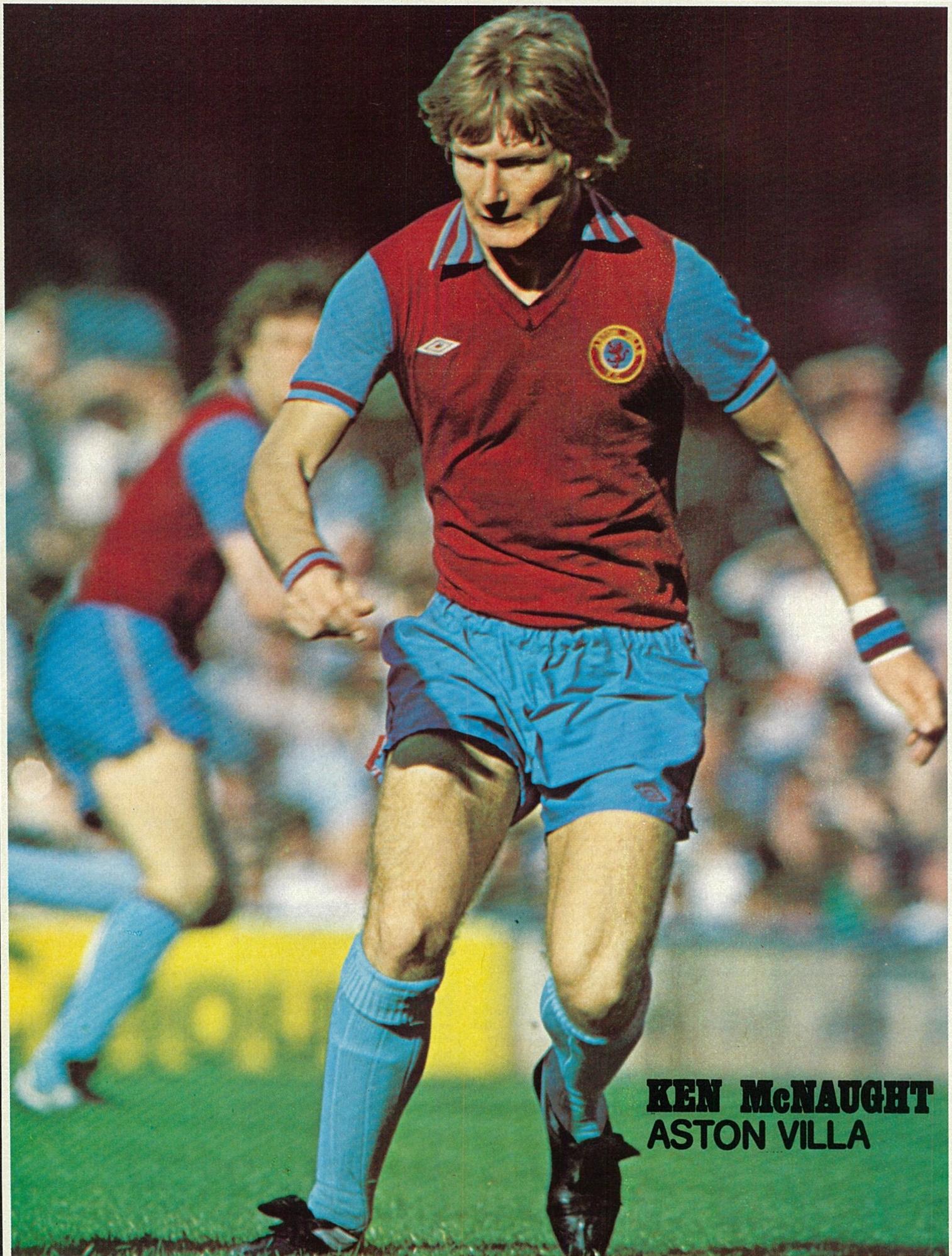
"I don't know whether we'll be able to challenge for the title but I expect us to make Europe at least this season. With the support this club has got, anything is possible."



**MALCOLM
WALDRON
SOUTHAMPTON**



SHOOT!



KEN McNAUGHT
ASTON VILLA

Continuing our series

THE Third Division of the Football League was, at one time, a stopping-off place for fading players on their way out to grass.

It wasn't taken too seriously in other words. But nowadays with clubs like Watford and Swansea City professing as much ambition as many a club in the First and Second the picture has changed.

Over the Christmas period Watford attracted a 20,000-plus crowd for their game with Shrewsbury, while down at the Vetch Field over 16,000 were disappointed to see the Welshmen lose to Swindon.

The day of the £100,000 transfer fee for a Third Division player arrived not so long ago — now that figure has soared to £200,000 with Steve Sims move from Leicester City to Watford.

So it can be seen, in picking our team of all the talents from the Third, we have much more scope than in the old days.

Take the goalkeeping position for instance — there's Watford's Andy Rankin, once the Everton regular between the sticks, while Tranmere Rovers keep calling on another former Goodison favourite Gordon West.

Swansea are still patting themselves on the back for buying Geoff Crudgington from Crewe Alexandra before the start of this season, and Mansfield Town feel they've one of the best in the consistent Rod Arnold — 250 appearances behind him now.

The Third Division, in fact, is blessed with rich talent in this position and the one we've gone for is also blessed with a rich name — Chesterfield's GLAN LETHERAN.

Learning

On leaving school Glan turned professional with Leeds, delighted no doubt to be learning from one of his boyhood idols Gary Sprake.

But Sprake's presence along with that of David Harvey and subsequently David Stewart too at Elland Road stymied Glan's progress.

Jimmy Armfield was good enough to recognise the boy's dilemma and after loaning him out to Scunthorpe, Chelsea and Notts County for the sake of experience, eventually agreed to let him sign for the Third Division club.

Glan has not regretted the move and such has been his form since moving to Saltergate he looks like following in a remarkable line of goalkeepers including Ray Middleton, Ron Powell, Gordon Banks, Alan Stevenson, Bob Wilson and Steve Hardwick.

Back-four players tend not to win many headlines in the newspapers and therefore some of the names we're about to put forward may be strange to some of you — but you have an assurance that all are playing leading parts at their clubs.

The right-backs who spring to mind are Mark Nickeas, of Chester, the evergreen Micky Cook of Colchester United, the equally dependable John Templeman down at Exeter, Shrewsbury's John King and Wyndham Evans, of Swansea.

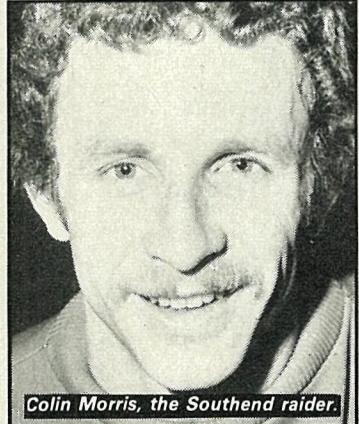
Our choice though is a man, like



Chesterfield's Glan Letheran.



Danny Bartley of Swansea.



Colin Morris, the Southend raider.

Brian Caswell, of Walsall, John Stirk, an excellent Watford buy from Ipswich Town, and Sheffield Wednesday's David Grant, fast benefiting from the expert tuition of people like Jackie Charlton and Maurice Setters.

So into the middle of the defence, and perhaps if he'd moved to Watford a little earlier there might have been a place for Steve Sims. Strange to think of a player in the Third Division having genuine England international aspirations, as Sims certainly has.

But it would be unfair to choose him so soon after the record-breaking £200,000 transfer to Vicarage Road, specially as there are a

how effective they are. Only Blackpool have scored more than twice against Carlisle and a miserly 15 goals were conceded in the first 21 League games.

Garner has been the rock around which Graham Taylor has built his Second Division-bound side.

All right there are bigger names at Vicarage Road, like Taylor himself, Elton John, the expensive Sims, the free-scoring Ross Jenkins, and other bought players like Ian Bolton, Brian Pollard and Ray Train — but none gives more every Saturday than Garner.

This Lambeth lad had to move out of the capital after failing to make the grade with Millwall and

Top talent from

Letheran following in the footsteps of some great names from the past — PAUL GARDNER, of Blackpool.

These are hard times at Bloomfield Road and with support dwindling it's all too easy to reflect on the recent memories of Matthews and Mortensen, Hughes and Ball, and that greatest of all right-backs at the club Jimmy Armfield.

Gardner has established himself in the position, and while the club's best players of the moment like Bob Hatton, Mickey Walsh and Paul Hart have gone and Billy Ronson has also been seeking a new home, he's got on with the job of helping Bob Stokoe out of his plight — and has done so very well.

Quick and especially good on the overlap Gardner is among the most reliable men in the Division.

The same could be said of the man we've chosen as his partner on the left Swansea's DANNY BARTLEY.

And this could be traceable to the fact Bartley is a converted winger who, aware of all the tricks of the trade, knows just when to stand off people, when to time the tackle, when to break and when to hang back — all the qualities in fact needed in his job.

Danny wins his place in our side in front of highly-rated contenders such as Bury's Keith Kennedy — not quite as good as brother Alan at Liverpool, but still impressive —

number of men who've been playing extremely consistently in these positions week-in and week-out for years.

Take Blackpool's Peter Suddaby, about to chalk up his 300th League appearance for the club, or Chesterfield's Colin Prophett who may have gone the rounds with Sheffield Wednesday, Norwich and Swindon previously, but who still ranks among the best number five's in the Division.

Colchester's Steve Dowman combines muscle and aggression to great effect in his side and is also capable of knocking in a few goals as nearly 20 in only 100 appearances amply proves.

There's Paul Haigh at Hull City, John Overton at Gillingham, Kevin Bird at Mansfield, Graham Turner, new player-manager of Shrewsbury and Steve Aizlewood, of Swindon, all very competent and hard-working professionals.

None of them quite make our side though, the choice going to IAN McDONALD of Carlisle United and ALAN GARNER of Watford.

McDonald has been a very shrewd investment by Bobby Moncur who, having played in the same position, probably recognises more than most the contribution that the former St. Johnstone man makes to his side.

With Bobby Parker alongside, Carlisle have one of the best defensive set-ups in the Division. The records this season shows just

he partly put the record straight at Luton, but it wasn't until he arrived at the heart of Watford's defence he really found his niche. Now he's rated one of the best back-four men around, and he for one certainly shouldn't be found wanting if Watford do go up.

You can't help looking at Watford for all departments of the team and it's the same in midfield with Train, Roger Joslyn, Bobby Downes and IAN BOLTON all coming into consideration.

In the end we plumped for Bolton because of his all-round strength, ability to dictate the pace of a game and utter commitment.

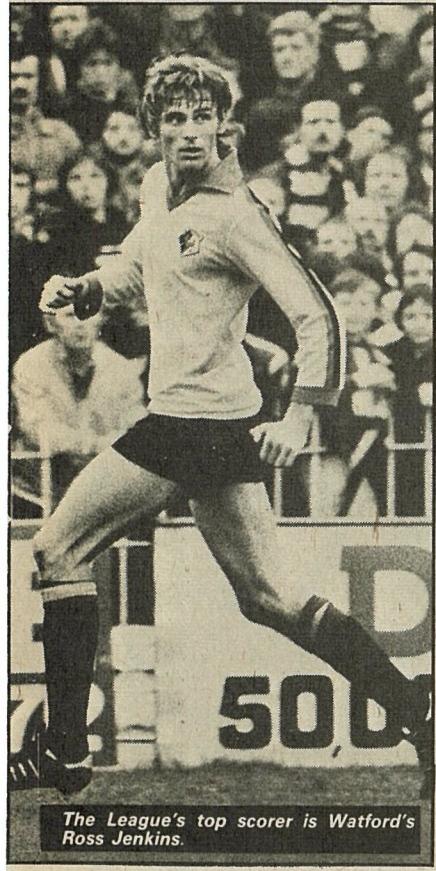
We also looked at the improved Clive Evans, of Tranmere Rovers, the maturing Jason Seacole, of Oxford, the ebullient Terry Nicholl, of Gillingham and the polished Gordon Hodgson, Oxford's recent purchase from Mansfield.

But to take advantage of all that space we hope to find on the right of midfield, we elected Swansea's ROBBIE JAMES.

So purposeful in everything he does James has impressed us this season with his selfless running off the ball, his creative talents and not least his explosive shooting which has already earned him plenty of goals.

James must figure highly in Mike Smith's future plans for Wales and he's certainly at the heart of John Toshack's planning.

And to complement his tena-



The League's top scorer is Watford's Ross Jenkins.

That's not meant unkindly either. Such has been his form since forsaking Burnley for the Fourth Division, that there are a number of First and Second Division clubs who'd be glad to take him.

Morris has a fair turn of speed, crosses a good ball, and though he doesn't get too many goals has sufficient attributes to make him valuable to any side.

The other right sided players who impress include Rotherham's Richard Finney, Colchester's Bobby Hodge, Blackpool's Tony Kellow, Carlisle's George McVitie and Sheffield Wednesday's Roger Wylde, but on balance Morris gets the vote.

You can't really argue with the selection of a partnership that threatens to smash goalscoring records these days, and such is the current form of Ross Jenkins and Luther Blissett that we didn't really look any further than the two Watford strikers.

It's 18 years since Terry Bly hit his 52 goals for Peterborough United and eight since Ted MacDougall, then as now with Bournemouth became the last player to notch over 40 in a season, but the way Jenkins is going in the League right now, he could challenge both.

His immense power in the air, tremendous self-confidence in and around the penalty-area, and the

the Third

city and Bolton's talent we rounded off our midfield with Shrewsbury's IAN ATKINS.

The familiar pattern in recent seasons has been for Shrewsbury to make a cracking start to the season, establish themselves as firm promotion candidates and then burn themselves out.

This year they promise to last the course, and after that fine Boxing Day performance at Watford and a tremendous F.A. Cup run which included that famous victory over Manchester City, perhaps we'd better listen.

Graham Turner who's taken over the job left in turn by Alan Durban and Richie Barker is convinced Gay Meadow will soon be housing Second Division football for the very first time.

He was also thrilled his team attracted 8,000 fans for a recent home League game — the best for a long time.

Atkins has been instrumental in Town's drive to the top and he's one of the main reasons why local people might just start believing in their team.

We wanted a skilful right-winger to create chances for two strikers who can hardly miss getting into the side, Watford's ROSS JENKINS and LUTHER BLISSETT.

So we opted for Southend's COLIN MORRIS who may not be at Roots Hall much longer if he keeps on playing the way he is at the moment.

fact he's got good players around him make Jenkins the most lethal finisher in the game at present.

As for Blissett his goalscoring power was rewarded when England boss Ron Greenwood named him in the England Under-21 squad for a friendly against Wales in early February.

A Morris-Jenkins-Blissett formation should certainly guarantee plenty of goalmouth action.

Other strikers well worth a mention are Chester's Ian Edwards, who smashed four goals on his international debut for Wales, David Kemp, who in successive spells at Crystal Palace, Portsmouth and now Carlisle has proved he can score goals anywhere, Fred Binney back to his sharp-shooting best with Plymouth Argyle, Alan Curtis, who would normally have got the nod for centre-forward but for the prolific Jenkins' amazing form, Chick Bates a prominent figure in Swindon's hustle up the League and David Gregory, who didn't quite fit in at Stoke, but who is proving a really excellent buy for Bury.

That's our Third Division team then: Letheran; Gardner, McDonald, Garner and Bartley; James, Bolton and Atkins; Morris, Jenkins and Blissett — and as we're very attack-minded in this Division we'll go for Swansea's ALAN CURTIS as substitute.

Next week we end the series by selecting our Fourth Division side.

A million pounds price tag on the head of Birmingham's Trevor Francis is an amazing thing to happen in a game where most clubs have massive overdrafts and are balanced on a financial knife-edge. It raised a question that we put to four managers concerned at this controversial development.

Has the transfer market gone mad?



'Suspend the system — then abolish it' — JOHN BOND (Norwich City)

THE situation has got completely out of hand — it is now quite ridiculous. I believe we should suspend the transfer market for two to three years and then abolish it completely. I don't see how clubs can go on treating players like slaves and selling them in this way.

I think if clubs couldn't go out and buy these costly stars, it would sort the men out from the

boys in terms of who could produce young players of real talent for the future. Malcolm Allison was saying this recently and I thoroughly agree with him.

That situation would allow clubs like Norwich, Ipswich and Bristol City to live on a par with others like Everton, Liverpool and Manchester United who can go out and spend hundreds of thousands on a player. Ipswich have shown what



Phil Hoadley (right) bought from Orient at the start of the season tangles with Manchester City's Mike Channon.

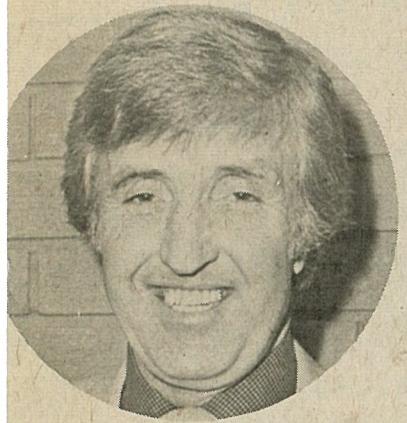
'Fees have ridiculous'

JUST don't see any clubs in this country being able to afford to pay out £1m for Trevor Francis or anyone else. And if clubs don't have the money available I believe it is totally irresponsible to compete at those financial levels for any player.

We have just spent £450,000 on one player — Brian Talbot. We have had this money available for a year but there is no way I can now go out and buy a £1m player. £450,000 is still a lot of money as far as I'm concerned and I don't believe any player is worth £1m.



Arsenal's new signing Brian Talbot (left) veers past Tony Woodcock of Nottingham Forest.



can be done with limited resources and a good youth policy.

Paying big fees just puts clubs into debt nine times out of ten. The only thing that has kept football clubs running in this country is the generosity of bank managers. Banks have kept the clubs open. Bearing that in mind, how can clubs contemplate spending £1m on one player? It's quite irresponsible to get a club into debt whatever way you do it.

The abolishment of the transfer system as we know it, will come eventually. It's just a question of when it will come. It may need some younger element within the football authorities to see the change through but it's sure to be sooner rather than later. It will be a good thing for football because if things go on as they are, clubs will end up bankrupt and out of business.

become

— TERRY NEILL (Arsenal)

With the transfer market in this state, it cannot be good for the game. Fees have become ridiculous for players and it is getting us nowhere.

No one should think English football is safe from the problems others have experienced. Look at the way gates have dropped alarmingly in Holland, a nation that has appeared in the last two World Cup Finals. Finances are low in Dutch football and if clubs spend money in this country that they cannot afford, we could go the same way.

Maybe a ceiling should be put on transfer fees, maybe they should be halted. I am not certain what is the answer but I do feel that in recent months, the fees being asked for players have become rather ridiculous.

I suppose it is up to individual clubs to assess the situation for themselves. But we at Arsenal never have been and never will be pushed into fighting for players at grossly inflated prices. Keeping up with the Joneses, buying top players just because they are there is not our way of doing it. We will only buy a player if we can afford him and if we feel he is what we need.

I do believe some fans expect their club to compete for any player, whatever the price. But clubs cannot do it if the money is just not there.

'A question of supply and demand' — ANDY NELSON (Charlton)

I DISAGREE with John — I don't think the situation will change very much in the near future. I don't think it can when it boils down to a simple question of supply and demand.

We are no longer producing loads of kids with talent in the game. That means kids with class and quality are at a premium — and when that happens, the price is bound to go through the roof. It's the same with anything whether it's a football player you're talking of or a car — if you want a top quality car you've got to pay a lot of money these days.

We have a player at Charlton who is worth a packet — Mike Flanagan. We are constantly being asked if he is for sale. Clubs want good quality players because those players keep the fans coming in to the clubs.

I don't see the situation changing here for some time. It's no good looking abroad for comparisons because clubs abroad are run on a totally different financial pattern. In Spain, Barcelona paid £1m for Cruyff and had got it back inside a year so they had two years profit out of him. If you get gates of 90,000 you get the money back without trouble.

But no club in England would get £1m back if they spent it on one player — it just wouldn't happen. Seats and entrance fees are far higher abroad and clubs rent stadiums generally speaking from



Charlton's hot shot Mike Flanagan volleys a cross against Leicester City.

'Only buy players you can afford'

— RON ATKINSON (West Bromwich Albion)

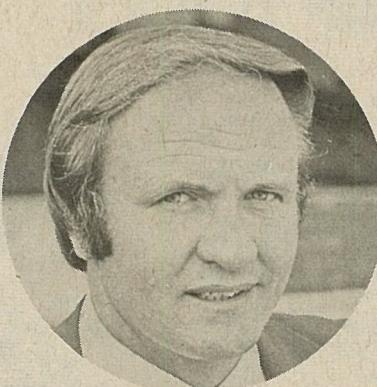
I AGREE with what Andy says about supply and demand. There are so few players of quality available that the price is bound to be high.

Warning noises are always made about these kind of situations. People said for years and years that when the maximum wage was abolished, there would only be six clubs in England — but it didn't happen. People said a lot of clubs would go to the wall if prices continued to go up — but they haven't. I don't think the problems are any worse than a few years ago.

The biggest problem is that clubs don't want to release quality players. If you look around the clubs these days, how many players can you buy even for £1/2m. We paid probably £75,000 over the odds for David Mills but there was a chance of getting him and we wanted him. That was because if we hadn't have bought him, we would have paid a fortune in Corporation tax. So you might as well buy a player with the money you have.

You've got to pay high prices for players that are quality performers. Some you wouldn't even get — not even £1m would tempt Arsenal to let Liam Brady go.

I don't see what is so bad about the situation. No one forces clubs to pay these sums — West Brom didn't have to pay all that for David



David Mills, West Brom's £500,000 signing from Middlesbrough, shows his footwork on snow in a training session with Laurie Cunningham.



the councils who use the facilities for the community. Here it doesn't work like that. Yes, things have got to change I agree but that will only happen on a gradual process.

Would I pay £1m for a player? Yes, if I could afford it. West Brom paid £1/2m for David Mills but I believe started bidding at £400,000. If you're prepared to pay that, what's another £100,000 — they had made a good profit and if they hadn't spent it, it would probably have gone to the taxman.

I don't see how a ban on transfer fees would help. What would be gained from that? I don't see things changing. Players are going all over the world now for big financial sums so it's sure to go on this way.

Mills. So if you don't want to buy these costly players, don't do so.

People say it will create an elite of big clubs who are able to spend vast sums. But the facts look different to me. Coventry were said to be chasing Trevor Francis at £1m and West Brom paid £1/2m for David Mills. We haven't mentioned the Leeds, Liverpools and Manchester clubs yet.

I just don't agree that prices are wildly inflated. If someone has a commodity, someone else must pay well for it. It's as simple as that. No one would buy my players cheaply so I'm not going to expect to purchase players for hardly anything.

Quality players that are available are few and far between. So the prices will continue to be high when they are available.

I'D LIKE to take this opportunity of answering a letter I've received from a Mr. Law who lives in Birkenhead, referring to comments I made about Tommy Docherty in the Sunday Mirror.

In the article, which appeared a couple of weeks ago, I restated my faith in the man who has twice signed me for fees totalling around £375,000.

"Don't knock The Doc," I said. "The harder you hit him, the bigger he'll bounce back. He's never down for long."

I also reminded critics of the good years Tommy has had, his successes and the fine teams he has left behind at places such as Chelsea, Aston Villa and Manchester United.

The knives — and long ones at that — have been out for The Doc for some months following his troubles outside the job.

But whatever personal problems Tommy's had they don't make him a bad manager.

'THE DOC WON'T LET DERBY DOWN'

To my mind The Doc is a good boss. He's a winner who's now having a lean time.

Derby's present situation will make him even more determined to bounce back.

Docherty's personal life is nothing to do with me. It's not my place to condone or condemn.

But getting back to Mr. Law, who accuses me of "crawling". He says "You and Docherty must be as thick as thieves."

With all due respects, Mr. Law, that statement is utter nonsense and makes me very angry. I'm my own man, always have been, always will be.

I was asked for my honest opinion of Tommy Docherty as a manager and I gave it.

What did you expect me to say, Mr. Law?

I have to work with The Doc . . . he's my boss. There's no way I'm going to be controversial, or give reporters sensational headline-making quotes just for the sake of it.

As for being "as thick as thieves" . . . that's laughable.

Apart from a common interest in shooting, Tommy Docherty and I have very little in common away from the game.

But I'll always be grateful to him for giving me my first big break by taking me from Millwall to Manchester United, while others hesitated.

I also realise he'll sell me one day, just as he's transferred other players.

Might be next year, or even next week if the right offer came along, or he had the chance to buy a player he felt would do a better job for him.

We've had our arguments, our ups-and-downs in the past. No player gets on THAT well with The Doc.

my soccer scene
GORDON HILL

As I said in SHOOT, I was disappointed when he sold Charlie George and Colin Todd.

But he must know his own business. Trying to rebuild Derby County is not an overnight job. It's no secret the club needed a shake-up, reorganising. That's exactly what The Doc is attempting to do.

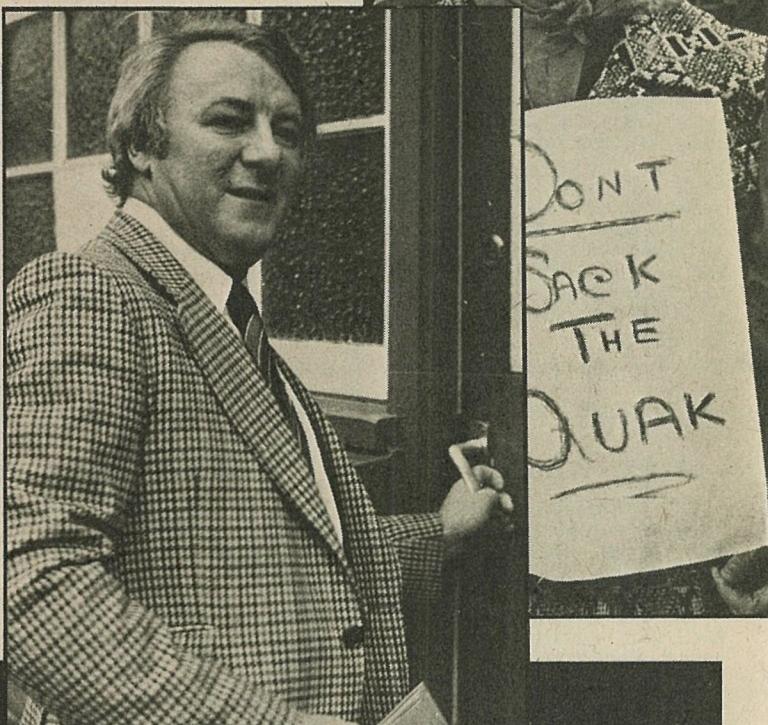
After his recent court case, Derby had the perfect opportunity to sack him . . . but they didn't. The directors and fans gave him a massive vote of confidence instead.

They realised good managers are hard to find these days. He won't let them down.

The Doc's no angel, but, I can't help liking him as a bloke, nor can my wife Jackie. He's been the perfect gentleman to her.

True, Derby haven't much to play for this season, now we're out of the F.A. Cup. But it wasn't The Doc's fault Derby lost at Preston in the Third Round. We were a disgrace . . . a shambles.

Derby aren't dead yet, though.



Martin Peters intercepts a pass to prevent a Derby goal-chance during their match at Norwich this season. Rams lost 3-0.





Two Derby fans made their feelings known when it was rumoured Tommy Docherty might be dismissed by the club, following his court case last November.

There's still pride and respectability to play for and a foundation to build on for next season.

Sadly my season is virtually over. As you know, I had to go into hospital recently for a cartilage operation. This was a result of the knee injury I suffered at the beginning of the season, in the League Cup at Leicester.

At the moment, and all being well I could be back in action by April. But I've been given instructions not to rush things.

Although I can't play I hope to be at the Baseball Ground this Saturday (February 10th), watching the lads tackle Norwich City.

I don't need to remind Rams' fans that The Canaries beat us 3-0 at Carrow Road back in September.

Despite our recent form, I'm confident Derby can bounce back and

achieve a good result at the weekend.

Norwich manager John Bond will have other ideas of course.

Now he's another boss I admire. He likes open football, goes out of his way to entertain and is never afraid to voice his opinion or make changes if necessary.

Following City's defeat in the F.A. Cup at Leicester, Mr. Bond was so disgusted at his team's performance he was on the verge of resigning. He also transfer-listed three first team squad players, Martin Chivers, John Ryan and Graham Paddon.

Like Tommy Docherty, John Bond is often controversial and makes outrageous statements, but he has style and character. Football would be poorer without them.

I understand John Bond has recently signed a new nine-year contract with Norwich. That's the sort of confidence and security which gives managers the oppor-



Gordon hopes to be back in action for Derby before the end of the season.

tunity to build a team their club will be proud of.

One lad who'll be trying hard to impress against Norwich is our new signing from Chelsea, Steve Wicks.

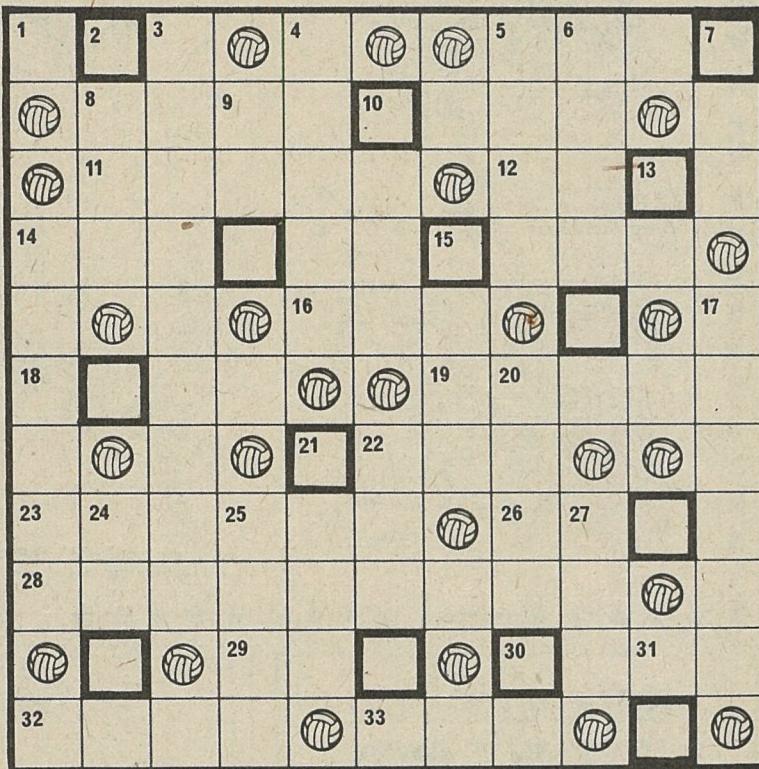
His strength at the back will be a valuable asset to the club — welcome to the Baseball, Steve.

Before I close I'd like to say thank you to all those Derby fans and SHOOT readers who sent me Get Well cards and letters while I was in hospital.

Great hearing from you . . .

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of an Arsenal striker. Answers on page 38.



ACROSS:

- (1) Willie ---r, midfielder from Wolves.
- (5) L---s -ark (Montrose) needs the letters of this colour.
- (8) Site. Where the ground is situated, for example.
- (11) — Park; home of Stranraer.
- (12) The ball hit hard at goal, for instance.
- (14) Aston Villa striker. (4 & 6).
- (16) Blackpool, "The ---siders".
- (18) --ng--s (Scottish Champions). "Underdone" from the omissions.
- (19) Powell, Derby County mid-field player.
- (21) Sometimes a player may be granted a — transfer.
- (23) H-m-lton ---demi---cal. Shrub or tree from the missing letters.
- (26) Take four letters from Queens Park to make the back of the neck.
- (28) The team is usually listed in this order — position-wise!
- (29) It forms the back of the goal.
- (30) Swa-s-- Ci-y, from Vetch Field.
- (32) It helps if the surface of the pitch is thus.
- (33) Alders--- from Recreation Ground.

DOWN:

- (2) Take four letters from Spotland to make "besides".
- (3) The "Merry Millers", — United.
- (4) Attacks on the opponents' goal, for instance.
- (5) Nickname of Peterborough United.
- (6) Take air into one's lungs.
- (7) Equipment.
- (9) A container from Norwich City's nickname.
- (10) There is one in each of the ground names of Barnsley, Bristol City and Motherwell.
- (13) Willie D---achie of Manchester City.
- (14) Joe —, Manchester United striker.
- (15) Tyn-c---tl-Park, Hearts ground.
- (17) Pick or choose.
- (20) Person who rents the ground, as an example.
- (21) o-far Athl-t-c. "Shoot" from the missing letters.
- (22) — Rovers, Scottish Division Two runners-up last season.
- (24) Bend — like the ball might with spin on it or in a strong wind
- (25) ov---ry City, The Sky Blues.
- (27) Brian -it--y of Cardiff City.
- (31) Kenny S-n-om of Crystal Palace.

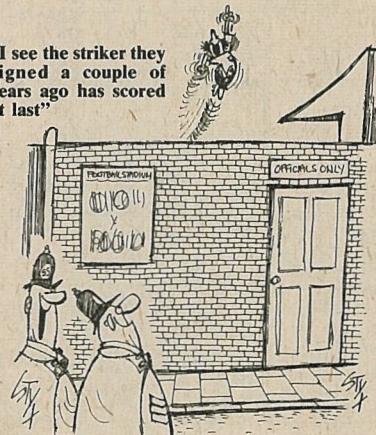
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



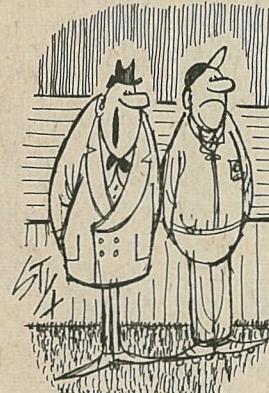
"Go and tell our keep-fit maniac of a goalkeeper not to do his jogging until the game is over"



"I never get sent-off — there must be something wrong with me, Doc"



"Our centre-forward's determined to get the transfer the club refused him — isn't he?"



This week Sheffield Wednesday's DAVID GRANT selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.

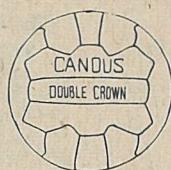
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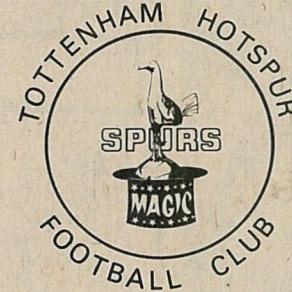
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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

EVERTON

ONCE THE PRIDE OF..... ANFIELD

In the beginning there were 12 — and where were Liverpool?" At least Everton supporters can boast their club were founder members of the Football League in 1888.

Everton began as a Sunday School side at St. Domingo Church in 1878 and a year later took the name that has seen it become one of the top clubs in the land.

Supporters of The Toffees can also add they helped the formation of Liverpool Football Club. Everton playing at Anfield Road from 1884 until 1892 before they fell out with the landlord and moved to Goodison Park.

Everton won the first of their seven League Championships only three years after entering the League, success coming in the 1890-91 season.

The club reached their first F.A. Cup Final in 1893 when they lost to Wolves 1-0. In the same year Liverpool were elected to the Second Division — and giving warning of the glory to come — won it at the first attempt (1893-94).

In 1897 Everton reached their second Final and again they finished runners-up, this time Aston Villa made it a League and Cup Double by winning 3-2.

Everton Roll of Honour

First Division Championship:
1890-91, 1914-15, 1927-28, 1931-32,
1938-39, 1962-63, 1969-70.

Second Division Champions:
1930-31.

F.A. Cup winners:
1906, 1933, 1966

At the third attempt the F.A. Cup was won, when in 1906, after defeating Liverpool 2-0 in the Semi-Final, Everton beat Newcastle 1-0.

A year later Everton again reached the Final only to lose by the odd goal of three to Sheffield Wednesday.

As the First World War raged across Europe, League football carried on until the end of the 1914-15 season and Everton won the last Championship played by holding off second placed Oldham Athletic by a point.

If the 'all quiet' was sounded on the Western Front in 1918 it took longer to reach Goodison Park as Everton slumbered for another ten years before bursting into life by winning the First Division title in 1927-28.

It was a season that will be remembered for another reason too. Ralph 'Dixie' Dean broke the League scoring record by netting 60 of Everton's 102 First Division goals.

Even with such a great goalscorer in the famous blue shirt Everton found themselves relegated at the end of the 1929-30 season.

It was a shock that shook the Mersey club and they won the Second Division at the first attempt with Dean scoring 39 of their 121 League goals.

There was no stopping Everton and they followed up by winning the First Division title straight away (1931-32) with Dean netting another 45 League goals out of a total of 116.

A season later they had a change of diet and won the F.A. Cup by



Gordon Lee receives another bottle of scotch for Manager of the Month.

beating Manchester City 3-0 at Wembley and thus became the first club to win the Second Division, First Division and F.A. Cup in successive seasons.

History has a habit of repeating itself, and as just before the First World War, so also Everton won the last League title played before World War Two.

This time another centre-forward was the star, Tommy Lawton.

Post-War blues hit the club and in 1951 they were relegated and spent three seasons in the Second Division before gaining second place in the 1953-54 season.

Everton's sixth League Championship came in the 1962-63 season with manager Harry Catterick in charge of the club. Roy Vernon was top League scorer with 24 goals.

LEAGUE FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Result	Venue
Aug 19	Chelsea	1-0A	
22	Derby Co	2-1H	
26	Arsenal	1-0H	
Sept 2	Manchester Utd	1-1A	
9	Middlesbrough	2-0H	
16	Aston Villa	1-1A	
23	Wolves	2-0H	
30	Bristol C	2-2A	
Oct 7	Southampton	0-0H	
14	Ipswich T	1-0A	
21	Q.P.R.	1-1A	
28	Liverpool	1-0H	
Nov 4	Notm. Forest	0-0A	
11	Chelsea	3-2H	
18	Arsenal	2-2A	
21	Man. United	3-0H	
25	Norwich C	1-0A	
Dec 9	Birmingham C	3-1A	
16	Leeds U	1-1H	
23	Coventry C	2-3A	
26	Man. City	1-0H	
30	Tottenham	1-1H	
Jan 20	Aston Villa	H	
Feb 3	Wolves	A	
10	Bristol C	H	
17	Southampton	A	
24	Ipswich T	H	
Mar 3	Q.P.R.	H	
10	Liverpool	A	
17	Notm. Forest	H	
24	Derby Co	A	
30	Norwich C	H	
Apr 7	W.B.A.	A	
10	Coventry C	H	
14	Man. City	A	
16	Bolton W.	H	
21	Leeds U	A	
28	Birmingham C	H	
May 5	Tottenham H	A	

In 1966 they gave Sheffield Wednesday a two goal lead in the F.A. Cup Final and fought back to win 3-2 with the largely unknown Mike Trebilcock scoring twice.

There were great names to cheer at Goodison. "The Golden Vision" as Alex Young was known, Tony Kay, Alex Scott, Fred Pickering and Ray Wilson.

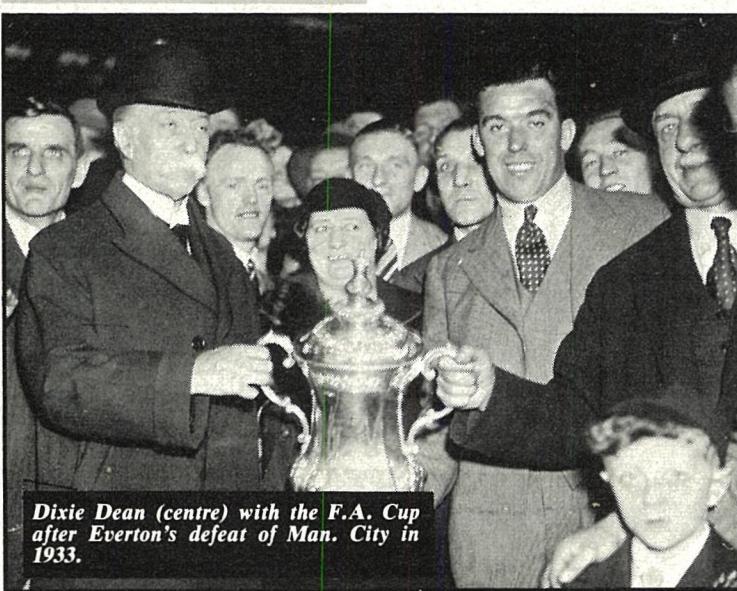
However, in 1968 Everton lost in the F.A. Cup Final to a Jeff Astle goal when West Bromwich Albion beat them 1-0 after extra-time.

In the 1969-70 season Everton won their seventh League title.

They also played in the 1976-77 League Cup Final and it took three matches before Aston Villa won the trophy.

Success in Europe has eluded Everton. In eight attempts their best performance has been the Quarter-Finals in the European Cup of 1970-71. This season they went out to Dukla Prague in the Second Round of the U.E.F.A. Cup.

To be arranged: W.B.A. (H), Bolton (A), Middlesbrough (A) and Aston Villa (H). Copyright of the Football League Ltd. and not to be reproduced without permission.



Dixie Dean (centre) with the F.A. Cup after Everton's defeat of Man. City in 1933.

Continued on page 22

Z O R W I



BACK ROW (left to right): Mark Higgins, Roger Kenyon, George Wood, Drew Brand, Martin Dobson, Bob Latchford.

MIDDLE ROW: Eric Ha
Colin Todd, Neil Rob
Telfer, Jim McGregor



Marrison (trainer), Dave Thomas, Mike Pejic,
Inson, Geoff Nulty, Dave Jones, George
(physio).

FRONT ROW: Andy King, Terry Darracott, Mike Lyons, Gordon
Lee (manager), Billy Wright, Mickey Walsh, Trevor Ross.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

PEN PICTURES

(L. App:— League Appearances; S:— Substitutes; G:— Goals. All records to end of the 1977-78 season)

TERRY DARRACOTT: Local defender who was an apprentice with the club before signing professional in July, 1968. Born Liverpool. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.6. L. App:— 131 and 10 sub.

MARTIN DOBSON: Midfielder who was once given a free transfer by Bolton and then became the first ever £300,000 cash transfer when he joined from Burnley in August, 1974. Full England caps. Born Blackburn. Ht. 5.11½. Wt. 11.8. L. App:— Burnley 220 and 3 sub, Everton 150. G:— Burnley 42, Everton 25.

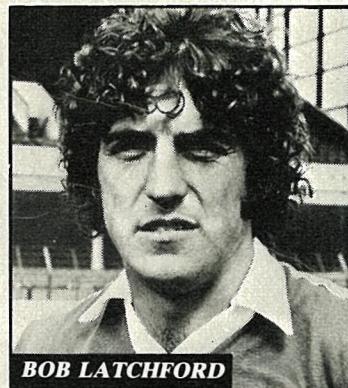
MARK HIGGINS: Central-defender who signed apprentice for Everton in April, 1975. Son of former Bolton defender John Higgins. Born Buxton. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 13.3. L. App:— 27 and 1 sub. G:— 1.

ROGER KENYON: Central-defender who signed professional in August, 1966. Born Blackpool. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 11.8. L. App:— 250 and 14 sub. G:— 6.

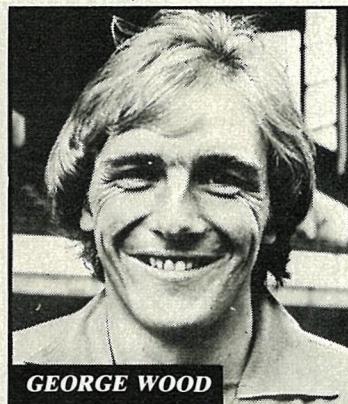
ANDY KING: Midfielder signed from Luton Town for £35,000 in March, 1976. England 'B' and Under-21 honours. Born Luton. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 10.13. L. App:— Luton 30 and 3 sub, Everton 81 and 1 sub. G:— Luton 9. Everton 17.



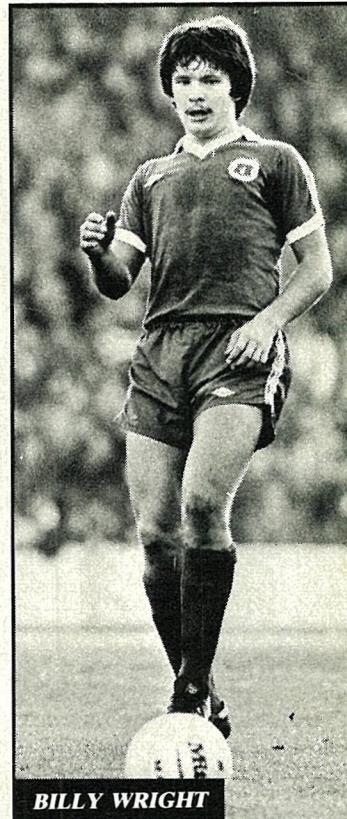
ANDY KING



BOB LATCHFORD



GEORGE WOOD



BILLY WRIGHT

MICK LYONS: Defender signed professional in July, 1969. England Under-23 honours. Born Liverpool. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 12.2. L. App:— 196 and 18 sub. G:— 37.

GEOFF NULTY: Defender or midfielder signed from Newcastle United in July, 1978, for £50,000 and rejoins former Burnley teammates Martin Dobson and Dave Thomas. Born Prescott. Ht. 5.10.



COLIN TODD

NEIL ROBINSON: Local born defender signed professional on 29th April, 1974. Born Liverpool. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 9.11. L. App:— 9. G:— 1.

TREVOR ROSS: Scottish Under-21 cap signed from Arsenal for £170,000 in November, 1977. Born Ashton-under-Lyne. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 10.12. L. App:— Arsenal 57 and 1 sub, Everton 18 and 2 sub. G:— Arsenal 5, Everton 4.

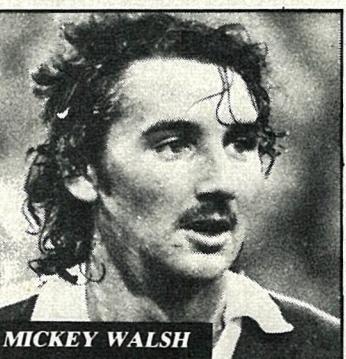
DAVE THOMAS: Winger who signed for Everton from Q.P.R. in August, 1977, for £200,000. Full England caps. Born Kirkby-in-Ashfield. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 9.13. L. App:— Burnley 152 and 4 sub, Q.P.R. 181 and 1 sub, Everton 38. G:— Burnley 19, Q.P.R. 29, Everton 2.

COLIN TODD: Defender signed from Derby County for £330,000 in September, 1978. Full England caps. Born Chester-le-Street. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.5. L. App:— Sunderland 170 and 3 sub, Derby 289. G:— Sunderland 3, Derby 6.

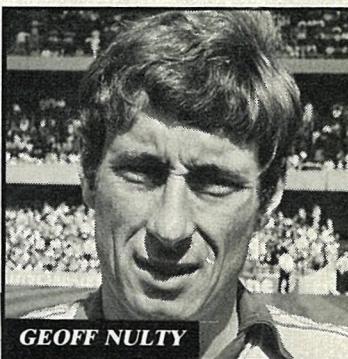
MICKEY WALSH: Striker signed from Blackpool for £325,000 in August, 1978. Full Republic of Ireland caps. Born Chorley. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.5. L. App:— Blackpool 172 and 8 sub. G:— Blackpool 72.

GEORGE WOOD: Goalkeeper signed from Blackpool in August, 1977 for £150,000. Called up by Scotland in the 1978-79 season. Born Douglas. Ht. 6.3. Wt. 14.0. L. App:— East Stirlingshire 22, Blackpool 117, Everton 42.

BILLY WRIGHT: Young defender signed professional in January, 1977. Nephew of former Everton star Tommy Wright. League debut in 1977-78 season and soon won an England Under-21 cap this term. Born Liverpool. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.6. L. App:— 3 and 1 sub. G:— 1.



MICKEY WALSH



GEOFF NULTY

BIG SPENDERS — LITTLE REWARD, YET!

EVERTON have never been afraid to spend money to buy success. This season has seen them dip into their deep coffers yet again. In the summer came striker Mickey Walsh from Blackpool for £325,000 and defensive cover in Geoff Nulty from Newcastle which, for Everton, was a mere £50,000. Yet perhaps their best buy was Colin Todd for £330,000 in September from Derby County. Colin is a Rolls-Royce among footballers, sheer class and as cool as an iceberg when the action rages around him.

If manager Gordon Lee lands an honour this season it will be considered money well spent by Everton supporters. After all, they are entitled to feel a little sick as the silverware piles up at nearby Anfield.

Yet Everton showed their old annoying habit when they went out of the F.A. Cup at the first attempt at the hands of Sunderland from the Second Division. Now they find West Bromwich joining their challenge for the League title against Liverpool. It could be so much spent for so little reward.

NA footballing sense, Leeds United schemer Eddie Gray is living on borrowed time.

Just over four years ago — at the age of 27 — the skilful Scot had resigned himself to premature retirement because of recurring thigh trouble.

After playing against Liverpool in the F.A. Charity Shield match at Wembley — the notorious Keegan-Bremner affair — this likeable Glaswegian painfully dropped out of the Leeds side and the only question to be settled appeared to be the size of compensation to be paid to him and his club.

With new manager Brian Clough's famous jibe ringing in his ears — "If you were a horse, Eddie, you'd be put down!" the new Elland Road manager told the fallen idol — Eddie took charge of the junior team.

And that was what he was doing when Clough was sacked a few



BORO'S BURNS COULD HAVE BEEN BOSS AT CARDIFF

LIFE has taken so many twists and turns for Micky Burns this season he has packed as much into a few months as many players achieve in a career.

He started by leaving Newcastle United in a £70,000 deal to become player-coach at Cardiff City; then, after just a couple of months, he was on his way back to the North-East — this time to join Middlesbrough as a player.

It was another £70,000 move and the articulate former schoolmaster was happy to be returning ... even if he was now back in the ranks as just a player.

No sooner had he started scoring goals for Middlesbrough, however, than Jimmy Andrews was sacked as Cardiff's manager and Burns was left to reflect on what-might-have-been.

"Yes, I could now be manager there," he agrees, "but Cardiff did not work out for me and there is absolutely no point in looking back."

"I had decided to leave and return to the North-East a week before the actual transfer took place. Once I had made up my mind, that was that. There was no going back."

"I did not have the backing I'd hoped for — although I'd like to stress I have the utmost respect for Jimmy."



without finding the back of the net.

"That is the way it goes in football and the answer to all of it is patience. I signed a three year contract at Cardiff because I felt that was the length of time it needed to do the job that had to be done there."

Now Burns, at 32, has signed another three year contract and says: "I feel as fit and sharp at this moment as at any time in my career. It is just impossible to say how long it can last once you are into your 30's: it might be 12 months or it might be five years.

"One moment the form, the reactions and the confidence are there: the next they aren't ... and you know it. You just keep working hard to give yourself every chance."

Concerned

Is it possible for a man to be a success as a player-coach in the two top Divisions? "Maybe at Cardiff, I was too concerned with everyone else's game rather than my own," he agrees.

"But I still believe my form at Cardiff was not bad — and anyway it was only right that going into a job like that I should give priority to the problems of a side that was going through a bad time."

"To be fair to the club when Middlesbrough made their offer, they asked me not to be hasty in making up my mind. Finally, however, I decided it would be better for everyone if I made the break."

The form Burns produced the moment he pulled on the red and white of Middlesbrough was just what manager John Neal had hoped for — he had tried to sign him the moment he knew Burns was available at Newcastle.

"I certainly love the higher standards of the First Division and especially the atmosphere of the big grounds and the larger crowds," says Burns.

After the disappointment at Cardiff, Burns is now back on the crest of a wave. His home life is settled after the twice weekly commuting across Britain; he is once again playing a full part in a golf equipment partnership; his football flair is sparkling again.

"The great thing in this game is to learn from your experiences," he adds.



JOHN NEAL

"One thing the Cardiff episode has not changed is I still want to move into the managerial-coaching side of the game. I hope the chance will come again. In fact, I look forward to it!"

In his six League games for hard pressed Cardiff, Burns failed to find the net. The moment he returned to the North-East those gleaming qualities of neat control and deadly finishing emerged once more and he was into double figures as a marksman before the New Year.

"I think there are two sides to this question," he reflects. "Cardiff were looking for a man to perform instant miracles — and one man cannot do that in any football team."

"The other point is all goalscorers have lean spells when they fail to find the target. If you look back at my record at Newcastle and at Blackpool, especially over the last five or six years, you will find I averaged 15 to 20 goals a season: but even then there was always a time I went half a dozen games

weeks later and Jimmy Armfield took over a struggling team.

Armfield recalls: "I thought I had inherited a first-class coach until I saw him displaying his delicate skills in a junior five-a-side match one morning.

"Although at that time Johnny Giles and Billy Bremner were still in the team United were desperately short of skilful attackers. So when I studied Eddie I suddenly got to thinking what a shame it was that he had been lost to the game.

"Yet there seemed no chance of him getting back into the big time. Everyone thought he was finished, even the medical people.

"Then one day I had one of my rare bursts of optimism in that first difficult season at Leeds. I decided to send Eddie to see a friend of mine, a specialist. He suggested a make-or-break return to soccer. It was going to be a case of kill or cure."

The rest is history. Gray, with the incentive of a shock reprieve from early retirement dangling invitingly before him, grasped the lifeline.

But it took months of painful sessions on the training ground and treatment table before he was thrilling the crowds all over the country with his phenomenal ball control.

Happily for him — and the fans — Gray's fighting spirit matched his skills. "It was hard work," he says, "but all the time I was striving to beat the odds I was encouraged by the faith Jimmy Armfield and his backroom staff obviously had in my ability to overcome a handicap which had dogged me for most of my professional career. "I suppose I also responded to the challenge to prove Cloughie wrong. After all, nobody likes to be written off so cruelly."

When retirement appeared inevitable, Gray had played 272 first team games for Leeds since bursting on to the First Division scene as a freckle-faced 17-year-old against Sheffield Wednesday at Elland Road on New Year's Day, 1966, crowning a scintillating debut with a goal.

Now he has over 400 matches —

Poised

With the management upheavals which have dogged Elland Road since Don Revie left now apparently over, the club is poised to win its first trophy since they landed the League Championship in 1973-74.

"That would be marvellous," says Eddie Gray with devastating enthusiasm for a man whose display cabinet at his luxury bungalow near Harrogate in the Yorkshire Dales is stacked with mementoes of a glittering career.

His tally to date includes two League Championship medals, F.A. Cup and League Cup medals and cherished awards for success in the European competitions.

His only regret is that Leeds fell at the final hurdle in the European Cup against Bayern Munich in Paris in 1975, the game which led to Leeds being banned from Europe because of the behaviour of a handful of their fans.

However, full of optimism, Eddie Gray reckons he and his colleagues will be back in Europe next season. He believes that involvement with Continental clubs generates success in domestic competitions.

As one who grew up immersed in triumph in the Revie era, Gray pines for glory. But he's always conscious that fate gave him a second chance and for that he's "eternally grateful no matter what the future holds."

Now he has over 400 matches —

IT IS unique for a coach's arrival at a club to create nationwide interest and speculation, but when that coach is Malcolm Allison it's hardly surprising.

For Malcolm, or "Big Mal" as he's often called, is a truly larger-than-life character, a man who just cannot avoid the limelight.

And now he's been recalled to Manchester City, the club he domi-

nated for so long, to rekindle the enthusiasm and playing power that brought so much success to Maine Road in the late Sixties and early Seventies.

Not in the role of assistant-manager to Tony Book, the full-back he brought from Plymouth Argyle in his last stint at Maine Road, but as coaching supremo.

Although he's such a powerful personality, so used to getting his own way, he's sure to play a far bigger part in things than the usual track-suited trainer of players.

I suspect he'll have a major say in picking the City team, and also in who stays at the club, who goes, and in the selection of players to bid for.

selected to demonstrate the requirements for each of the different playing positions.

Sadly, the film wasn't completed, but last year I landed the same role in one which was successfully shown on a TV network.

Big Mal had some different ideas on goalkeeping and, always being keen to learn, I gave them a lot of consideration.

Chances are City's fortunes will be improved under his influence, but it's important to bear in mind the fact a new face invariably gives a club a boost as players make that extra effort to impress.

The big question mark is can he bring out all the brilliant potential which many of the most respected figures in the game are convinced lies in the City squad?

It seems if anyone can, it's the man whose destiny is bound up with the club.

The unfortunate aspect of his arrival is it signalled the departure of Bill Taylor, previously in charge of the coaching staff.

be coaxed gently.

To my mind there is too much mumbo-jumbo preached about coaching. Football is an uncomplicated game and should be played as such.

At Liverpool the philosophy is simple: unless you can pass to another red shirt, keep possession, and don't take chances around your own 18-yard box. The only place to be adventurous is in front of the other team's goal.

We have four sides at Anfield: the first, reserves, "A" and "B". The coaches in charge all work the same way, employing identical methods and attitudes.

It's no good a player graduating from one team and having to change his style. Conformity and continuity are the by-words.

Consequently there are very few changes amongst the backroom staff at our club. Most have been there for years, and are steeped in the traditions that have brought so much success in the past three decades.

'A GOOD COACH IS INVALUABLE'

It'll probably be the same arrangement as when he worked with Joe Mercer, who operated more as a general-manager in charge of administration and affairs away from day-to-day contact with the team.

Big Mal has proved he's at his best when he's involved with the players, encouraging them to improve skills, discussing tactics, analysing opponents, and reliving great games and outstanding individual performances.

There's no doubt he has the knack of motivating players, bringing out the best in them, and from what I've seen and heard of him he is a more mature, balanced person now than when he departed from Maine Road to tackle new challenges.

My only personal experience of him was during the making of a coaching film for schools a few years ago. He was the coach in charge, and I one of the players

Bill, a Scotsman, is coach to the England team with a special responsibility for the goalkeepers, and so I have had a great deal of contact with him on international duty.

He's a quiet, undemonstrative man with much to offer to the game and all of us in the England squad regard him with respect and value his friendship.

Bill is not the sort to languish amongst the unemployed, and he's sure to be snapped up by a go-ahead club. Of course, he'll continue with England.

Let's hope we don't lose him to a foreign club. Too many of our best men are joining the soccer brain drain.

A good coach is invaluable, and can contribute a great deal to a club.

The most important quality of a coach is to be able to deal with players of different temperaments, to know which ones respond to straight talking, and which need to

Coaches in charge of our first team squad are Joe Fagan and Ronnie Moran, both almost part of the furniture at Anfield. Joe used to play for Manchester City as a centre-half in front of the legendary 'keeper Frank Swift, so tragically killed in the Manchester United 'plane crash in 1958 in Munich. At that time Frank was a sports journalist.

Ronnie is a former Liverpool stalwart, a full-back of the early Sixties.

Ronnie Moran first impressed when called up for a 1965 European Cup Semi-Final first-leg at Anfield in place of Gerry Byrne, out with a broken collar bone sustained in Liverpool's F.A. Cup Final win over Leeds a few weeks previously.

Gerry had been a hero of that Final, playing on after being injured in the 20th minute.

Ronnie was opposed by a Brazilian World Cup star named Jair, a key player with Inter-Milan, under manager Hellino Herrera, one of the most feared teams in Europe at



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The Lion

Which former England player had the nickname of "The Lion of Vienna"?

MATTHEW COOKE,
NOTTINGHAM

• He was Bolton's Nat Lofthouse, Matthew, who scored 33 goals in 30 full internationals in the 1950's.

Lofthouse got that nickname because of a superb display against Austria — then one of the most hard-to-beat sides in Europe — in Vienna in May, 1952.

England won 3-2 — with the "Lion" running half the length of the field solo for his second, and the winning goal.

Ken Shellito

Please settle an argument — has former Chelsea manager Ken Shellito

ever played for England?

MARTIN HALLIWELL,
DORCHESTER

• Yes, Martin, he has — just once. That was in the 4-2 win over Czechoslovakia in Bratislava in May, 1963 — after earlier winning one Under-23 cap.

Unfortunately, a severe knee injury cut short his playing-career in January, 1969 — after he'd had time to play only 123 first team games for Chelsea.

Almost immediately he was first appointed coach, and then manager, of the Youth side — since which time he gradually worked his way up to the top in the manager's hot-seat. Ken resigned as Chelsea boss in December, 1978.

Radio's start

What was the first match to be broadcast on the radio?

EHSANUL KABIR,
STEVENAGE

• As far as Britain is concerned, Ehsanul, it was a running commentary on part of the First Division game between Arsenal and Sheffield United, at Highbury, on 22nd January 1927.

Strangest transfer

What do you reckon is the strangest transfer ever?

CHRISTOPHER RICE,
HAVERHILL

• Well, Christopher, seeing the inflated fees paid for some quite ordinary players in the last few years, I can think of quite a number.

More seriously, though, I figure a fee of 30 sheets of corrugated iron must take a bit of beating!

That's what Mossend Celtic once

the time.

Apparently Ronnie had an exceptionally good game, subduing the quicksilver Jair and making a big contribution to Liverpool's 3-1 win over a team renowned for its solid defence.

Unfortunately, in a game of shame, the Italians knocked out Liverpool by 3-0 in the San Siro stadium. Evidence has been produced subsequently that The Reds

'Our backroom staff have been at the club for years'

were cheated out of a just result by a referee, who wasn't exactly impartial.

Roy Evans, a great friend of mine, is coach to the reserve side. He is also an ex-defender.

It's a fact that most coaches are



L to r: Joe Fagan,
Ronnie Moran, Bob
Paisley and Reuben
Bennett.

RAY CLEMENCE talking soccer

drawn from the ranks of defenders and midfield, and rarely does a striker gravitate to the role.

I suppose it's mainly because defenders and midfield players are able to study the play, while strikers are too concerned with getting free of a marker and putting the ball into

the net.

Notable defenders who became coaches of stature are Don Howe, now coach at Arsenal, the club he helped steer to the Double of Championship and F.A. Cup in 1971; Alf Ramsey who achieved everlasting fame by taking England to a World Cup triumph in 1966; Bobby Robson now Ipswich boss; and of course Malcolm Allison himself, who played for West Ham as a centre-half.

It never ceases to amaze me that 'keepers so rarely become successful coaches. One I can think of is Harry Gregg, the ex-Manchester United number one who has filled managerial posts with Swansea and Crewe before returning to Old Trafford this season to help sort out their goalkeeping problems.

The other successful former 'keeper is Peter Taylor, the other half of the Nottingham Forest managerial double-act. With Brian

Clough, Peter has formed a partnership that has truly benefited our game.

Peter obviously has considerable coaching ability, and works closely with Jimmy Gordon, who has been with him at both Derby and Forest.

Coaching plays a big part in the development of a player, but I am convinced it is mistaken to start at too early an age.

Children should be allowed to teach themselves the basics, such as heading, trapping, shooting and control of the ball, and to play games free from the pressure of competition.

It's in these early years they develop an enthusiasm for the game and reveal their natural skills.

Coaching at too early an age can stifle individuality. There are always more than one way to do anything, and what is right for one person may not be for another.

We must avoid turning young-

They should take a tip from we pro's, and play across half the pitch. Admittedly we play five-a-side.

All the aspects of the game can be used — without ill-effects.

Now for my preview of this week's League match, away against Bolton Wanderers. Coming up as Second Division Champions this season, I expected them to do better than they have done. Although I believe they have been injury-hit, and manager Ian Greaves has been unable to buy suitable replacements.

They visited Anfield early this season and lost 3-0 after a disappointing performance.

Mind you, we shan't be complacent because of that result, as Bolton have built a reputation as a good home' side.

Man to watch out for is Frank Worthington, a striker who seldom causes problems outside the 18 yard box, but undergoes a transformation inside it. His ability to capitalise on the slimmest of chances has made him the First Division's top scorer.

Burnden Park is a First Division ground in every respect, although in common with most others at this time of the year its pitch is on the heavy side.

A couple of seasons ago Ian Greaves blamed it for Bolton's failure to clinch promotion.

At three o'clock we'll be feeling pleased to come away with a point. Around twenty-to-five we'll be hoping to collect two!

'Bolton were disappointing at Anfield'



wanted for fencing around their ground — and that's just what they got from Holytown United for the transfer of John Spelton.

Highest and lowest

Is it right Leeds hold the record both for the highest, and lowest, number of First Division points in a single season?

JOHN GILBODY,
NEW MALDEN

Since the First Division programme has consisted of 42 matches — that's to say, with a maximum of 84 points — it certainly is, John.

Leeds gained 67 points in winning the League title in 1968-69; and only 18 when relegated in 1946-47.

The latter unenviable record was subsequently equalled by Q.P.R. in 1968-69.

SHORT PASSES

● Ipswich's Kevin Beattie has played nine times for the full England side.

(GRAHAM BELL, Co. Antrim)

● Winners of the European Championship have been Russia (1960), Spain (1964), Italy (1968), West Germany (1972), and Czechoslovakia (1976).

(AHMAD HASAN, West Malaysia)

● Wolves' winger Johnny Hancocks scored twice in his three full internationals for England (1948 to 1951).

(J. GOUGH, Telford)

● Frank Stapleton joined Arsenal as an apprentice in June, 1972, and was signed as a full professional in October, 1973.

(MARTIN WHELAN, Canada)

● Bobby Moore's 108th, and last, full international for England was against Italy at Wembley in November, 1973.

(KEITH GREEN, Wolverhampton)

● Record gate at Roker Park is 75,118 (Sunderland v. Derby; F.A. Cup Sixth Round replay; 8th March, 1933).

(MARTIN DALEY,
Houghton-le-Spring)

● Manchester United manager Dave Sexton played for non-League Chelmsford, Luton, West Ham, Orient, Brighton and Crystal Palace.

(MUSTAZA MSTAFFA, Malaysia)

● Wrexham's first League game was a 0-2 home defeat by Hartlepool (Div 3 North) on 27th August, 1921.

(ALAN ROBERTS, Wrexham)

● In full peacetime internationals, England have beaten Scotland 35 times, lost 38 games, and drawn 22.

(MATTHEW CHATTERTON,
Rotherham)

● Graeme Souness was transferred from Middlesbrough to Liverpool for £352,000 on 11th January, 1978.

(KEVIN O'FARRELL, Dundalk)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

RESULTS... SCORERS... TEAM LINE-UPS

MONDAY, JAN. 8

F.A. CUP

Third Round

SWANSEA (0) 0
BRISTOL R (1) 1 (White) 16,054
 Swansea: Crugdington; Evans, Bartley, Smith, Phillips, Charles, Toshack, James, Curtis, Waddle, Callaghan.
 Bristol R: Thomas; Day, Taylor, Harding, Bater, Aitken, Williams, White, Hendrie, Staniforth, Mabbutt (Dennehy).
 Postponed: Third Division Tranmere v Mansfield.

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

F.A. CUP

Second Round replay

ROTHERHAM (1) 2 (Gwyther, Phillips)
BARNESLEY (1) 1 (Forrest o.g.) 15,535
 Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Stancliffe, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Smith, Crawford.
 Barnsley: Springett, Collins, Chambers, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Little, Clarke, Riley, Millar, Bell.

Third Round

BIRMINGHAM (0) 0
BURNLEY (1) 2 (Morley, James) 19,034
 Birmingham: Montgomery; Broadhurst, Dennis, Towers, Gallagher, Page, Dillon, Francis (Bertschin), Buckley, Tarrantini, Givens.
 Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Rodaway, Hall, Ingham, Morley, Kindon, James.
BRIGHTON (1) 2 (Lawrenson, Ryan)
WOLVES (1) 3 (Bell, Daley, Williams o.g.) 25,217
 Brighton: Moseley; Cattlin, Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrenson, Ryan, Poskett, Maybank (Clark), Sayer, O'Sullivan.
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbert, Daley, Bell, Eves (Brazier), Carr.

BRISTOL C (0) 3 (Gow, Rodgers, Ritchie)
BOLTON (0) 1 (Smith) 17,392
 Bristol C: Shaw; Sweeney, Gillies, Gow, Rodgers, Hunter, Tainton, Ritchie, Royle, Cormack, Whitehead.
 Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Jones (P.), Walsh, Morgan, Smith, Gowling, Worthington, McNab.

CHARLTON (0) 1 (Flanagan)
MAIDSTONE (1) 1 (Coupland) 13,432
 Charlton: Wood; Shaw, Campbell, Gritt (Peacock), Shipperley, Berry, Briley, Hales, Flanagan, Madden, Powell.
 Maidstone: Guy; Kinnear, Edwards, Hill, Aitken, Merrick, Silvester, Gregory, Coupland, Fusco, Budden.

COVENTRY (1) 2 (Blair, Green)
W.B.A. (1) 2 (Cunningham, Brown A.) 38,046
 Coventry: Blith; Hagen, McDonald, Blair, Holton, Coop, Nardiello (Green), Wallace, Thompson, Powell, Hutchison.
 W.B.A.: Godden; Batson, Statham, Brown (T.), Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown (A.), Regis, Trewick, Cunningham.

DARLINGTON (0) 0
COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Hodge) 3,465
 Darlington: Burleigh; Natress, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Stone, Probert, Paterson, Seal (Maitland), Wann, Walsh.
 Colchester: Walker; Cook, Wright, Hodge, Wignall, Dowman, Foley, Gough, Dyer, Bunnell, Allision.

FULHAM (1) 2 (Margerrison, Davies)
Q.P.R. (0) 0 21,119
 Fulham: Peyton; Strong, Lock, Bullivant, Money, Gale, Davies, Beck, Guthrie, Margerrison, Marinello.
 Q.P.R.: Parkes; Clement, Gillard, Cunningham, Howe, Hollins, Shanks, Eastoe, Hamilton, Bowles, Busby (Harkouk).

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 1 (Ashcroft)
C. PALACE (1) 1 (Walsh) 21,441
 Middlesbrough: Stewart; Craggs, Bailey (Ashcroft), Mahoney, Boam, McAndrew, Cochrane, Proctor, Burns, Cummins, Armstrong.

Palace: Burridge; Hinshelwood, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Murphy, Swindlehurst, Fenwick, Walsh.

NEWPORT (1) 2 (Goddard, Woods)
WEST HAM (1) 1 (Robson) 14,124

Newport: Plumley; Walden, Byrne, Thompson, Davies, Bruton, Oakes, Lowndes, Goddard, Woods, Vaughan.

West Ham: Day; Lampard, Brush, Bonds, Martin, McDowell, Taylor (A), Devonshire, Cross, Brooking, Robson.

NOTTS CO (3) 4 (Vinter, Hooks, Mann, Masson)

READING (0) 2 (Kearney 2) 8,265

Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Blockley, Stubbs, Mann, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks, Hunt, Vinter.

Reading: Death; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Alexander (Hetzke), Earles, Kearney, Sanchez, Lewis.

ORIENT (2) 3 (Kitchen 2, Chiedozie)

BURY (2) 2 (Gregory, Beamish) 6,192

Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Greasham, Gray, Went, Hughton, Moores, Mayo, Chiedozie, Kitchen.

Bury: Forrest; Ritson, Kennedy, Lugg, Tucker, Bailey, Stanton, Wilson, Beamish, Gregory, Taylor.

SHEFF. UTD 0

ALDERSHOT 0 16,000

Sheff. U: Conroy; Franks, Garner, Kenworthy, Matthews, Calvert, Anderson, Speight, Varadi, Sabella, Hamson.

Aldershot: Johnson; Howitt, Wooler, Dixon, Youlden, Jopling, Crosby, Brodie, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor.

SWINDON (2) 3 (McHale, Kamara 2)

CARDIFF (0) 0 9,983

Swindon: Ogden; McLaughlin, Ford, McHale, Aizlewood, Lewis, Miller, Carter, Gilchrist, Bates, Kamara.

Cardiff: Healey; Dwyer, Roberts, Campbell, Pontin, Larmour, Attley, Bishop (Buchanan), Evans, Thomas, Lewis.

WIMBLEDON (0) 0

SOUTHAMPTON (0) 2 (Boyer 2) 9,254

Wimbledon: Goddard; Perkins, Eames, Kettridge, Galvin, Denny, Parsons, Briley, Knowles (Leslie), Cork, Haverson.

Southampton: Gennoe; Golac, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Heberd, Holmes, Curran.

YORK (1) 2 (Staniforth, Randall)

LUTON (0) 0 6,700

York: Brown; Kay, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ford, Randall, Loggie, McDonald, Staniforth.

Luton: Findlay; Jones, Aizlewood, Carr, Price, Donaghy, West, Hill, Stein, Hatton, Shielock.



Bristol City's Tom Ritchie (above) scored one of the goals that beat Bolton 3-1. Altrincham goalkeeper Peter Eales (below) in action against Spurs during their F.A. Cup tie at White Hart Lane.

Postponed: Hartlepool v Leeds; Preston v Derby; Wrexham v Stockport.

Replay

ARSENAL (0) 1 (Brady)

SCHEFF. WED (1) 1 (Wynde) a.e.t.

37,987

Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Gatting, Rix.

Sheff. W: Turner; Blackhall, Rushbury, Smith, Shirliff, Johnson, Wynde, Porterfield, Leman, Lowry, Hornsby.

LEAGUE CUP

Fifth Round replay

WATFORD (1) 3 (Jenkins, Blissett 2)

STOKE (0) 1 (Richardson) a.e.t.

21,419

Watford: Sherwood; Stark, Pritchett, Booth, Bolton, Garner, Pollard, Blissett, Jenkins, Joslyn, Mayes.

Stoke: Jones; Dodd, Bowers, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, McGroarty, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Richardson.

FOURTH DIVISION

GRIMSBY (2) 5 (Ford 3, Cumming, Mitchell)

BRADFORD C (0) 1 (Dolan)

4,975

Grimsby: Batch; Moore (D), Moore (K), Waters, Barker, Crombie, Brolly, Ford, Lester, Mitchell, Cumming.

Bradford C: Downsbrough (Martinez); Podd, Watson, Reaney, Middleton, Wood, Bates, Dolan, Baines, McNiven, Hutchins.

PORT VALE (1) 2 (Wright, Todd)

WIGAN (0) 1 (Wright)

3,744

Port Vale: Dance; Keenan, Bentley, Delgado, Harris, Hawkins, Elsby, Bromage, Wright, Todd, Proudlove (Sinclair).

Wigan: Grew; Smart, Davids, Gore, Ward, Fretwell, Corrigan, Wright, Houghton, Moore, Purdie (Brownbill).

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

F.A. CUP

Third Round

IPSWICH (2) 3 (Beattie, Muhran, Wark pen.)

CARLISLE (1) 2 (Tait, Kemp)

19,036

Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Tibbott, Mills, Osman, Beattie, Wark, Muhran, Mariner, Whymark, Woods.

Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, McCartney, MacDonald, Tait, Barker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Lidiham, Kemp, Hamilton.



MILLWALL (0) 1 (Walker)

BLACKBURN (0) 2 (Brotherston, Radford) 8,354

Millwall: Cuff; Donaldson, Gregory, Chambers, Kitchener, Mehmet, Towner, Seasman, Mitchell, Walker, Chatterton.

Blackburn: Butcher; Hird, Bailey, Metcalfe, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Garner, Radford, Round, Birchenall (Morris).

NOTTM FOREST (0) 2 (Needham, Evans o.g.)

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 29,550

Nottm F: Shilton; Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, O'Neill, Gemmill, Birtles, Woodcock, Robertson.

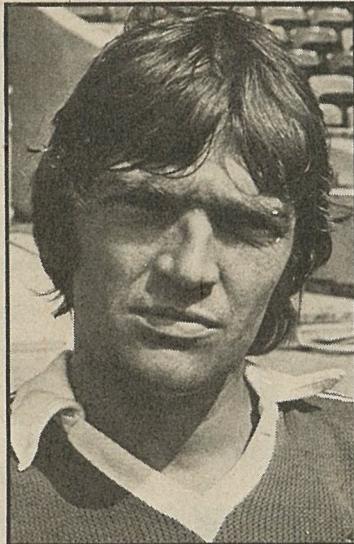
Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Williams, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Craig, Swain, Deehan, Cowans, Gregory.

SOUTHEND 0

LIVERPOOL 0 31,033

Southend: Cawston; Stead, Yates, Laverick, Hadley, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Dudley, Fell.

Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Hughes, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Case, Fairclough, McDermott (Highway), Souness.



Bill Garner hit Cambridge United's third goal against Cardiff.



David Price equalised for Arsenal in their 2-1 victory over Nottingham Forest.

SUNDERLAND (1) 2 (Rowell pen., Lee)

EVERTON (0) 1 (Dobson) 28,602

Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Bolton, Docherty, Clarke, Elliott, Buckley, Rostron, Entwistle, Lee, Rowell.

Everton: Wood; Todd, Darracott, Lyons Wright, Ross, King, Dobson, Latchford, Walsh, Thomas.

TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Taylor pen.)

ALTRINCHAM (0) 1 (Johnson) 31,081

Tottenham: Kendall; McAllister, Holmes, Villa, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Ardiles, Lee, Jones, Taylor.

Altrincham: Eales; Allian, Brooke, Bailey (Crossley), Owens, Davison, King, Heathcote, Johnson, Rogers, Howard.

Postponed: Man. Utd v Chelsea; Newcastle v Torquay.

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

FOURTH DIVISION

STOCKPORT (1) 1 (Lee)

BRADFORD C (0) 0 3,573

Stockport: Rogan; Smith, Rutter, Edwards, Park, Thompson, Henson, Summerbee, Bradd, Armstrong, Lee.

Bradford C: Smith; Podd, Watson, Reaney, Baines, Wood, Bates, Dolan, Roberts, McNiven (Martinez), Hutchins.

Postponed: Division Three: Colchester v Carlisle; Southend v Sheff. Wed.



Leeds United striker John Hawley was on target against Manchester City.

SECOND DIVISION

CAMBRIDGE (0) 5 (Finney, Biley 3, Garner)

CARDIFF (0) 0 5,344

Cambridge: Webster; Spriggs, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Leach, Cozens, Garner, Christie, Finney, Biley (Streete).

Cardiff: Healey; Attley, Pethard, Roberts, Pontin, Larmour, Grapes, Buchanan, Bishop, Evans, Dwyer.

Postponed: Blackburn v Newcastle; Luton v Bristol R; Millwall v Preston; Notts Co v Leicester; Oldham v Brighton; Sheff. Utd v Fulham; Stoke v Orient; Sunderland v C. Palace; West Ham v Burnley; Wrexham v Charlton.

THIRD DIVISION

EXETER (2) 3 (Neville pen., Delve, Roberts)

CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 (Walker) 3,671

Exeter: O'Keefe; Templeman, Hore, Randell, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Sims, Pearson, Delve, Hatch.

Chesterfield: Letheran, Hunter, Burton, Trott, Cottam, Prophett, Cammack, Kowalski, Fern (Moss), Salmons, Walker.

GILLINGHAM (0) 3 (Price, Westwood, pen., Nicholl)

TRANMERE (2) 2 (Evans, Peplow) 5,480

Gillingham: Hillyard; Sharpe, Armstrong (Price), Overton, Weatherley, Crabbie, Nicholl, Hughes, Jolley, Westwood, Richardson.

Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Flood, Parry, Postlewaite, Evans, Palios, Bramhall, Moore, Craven, Peplow.

PETERBOROUGH (2) 2 (Robson, Butlin)

CHESTER (0) 1 (Edwards) 4,445

Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Styles, Doyle, Green, Ross, Anderson, Holman, Butlin, Cooke, Robson.

Chester: Lloyd; Nickeas, Walker, Storton, Jeffries, Phillips, Sutcliffe, Livermore, Edwards, Felix, Henderson.

Postponed: Blackpool v Shrewsbury; Bury v Oxford; Hull v Brentford; Lincoln v Rotherham; Mansfield v Plymouth; Swansea v Watford; Swindon v Walsall.

FOURTH DIVISION

ALDERSHOT (0) 1 (Brodie)

PORT VALE (0) 1 (Sinclair) 3,608

Aldershot: Johnson; Howitt, Wooler, Dixon, Youlden, Jopling, Crosby, Brodie, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor.

Port Vale: Dance; Keenan, Bentley, Delgado, Harris, Hawkins, Elsby, Bromage, Wright, Sinclair, Proudlove.

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0

CREWE (1) 1 (Bowles) 2,855

Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Ferns, Miller, Brown (R), Borthwick, Barton, MacDougall, Showers, Lennard (Scott), Johnson.

Crewe: Rafferty, Rimmer, Dulson, Nicholls, Bowles, Bevan, Davies, Warnock, Nelson, Roberts, Robertson.

NEWPORT (1) 3 (Davies, Goddard 2, 1 pen.)

READING (2) 2 (Earles, Kearney) 5,968

Newport: Plumley; Walden, Byrne, Warriner, Davies, Oakes, Lowndes, Thompson, Goddard, Woods, Vaughan.

Reading: Death; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Hetzke, Kearney, Sanchez, Lewis.

PORTSMOUTH (0) 1 (Barnard)

ROCHDALE (0) 1 (Owen) 11,595

Portsmouth: Mellor; Ellis, Viney, McIlwraith, Foster, Wilson, Hemmerman, Lathan (Denyer), Davey, Barnard, Pullar.

Rochdale: Felgate; Creamer, Taylor, Scaife, Scott, Snookes, Hoy, O'Loughlin, Jones, Owen, Esser (Bannon).

Postponed: Barnsley v Scunthorpe; Doncaster v Huddersfield; Grimsby v Darlington; Halifax v Torquay; Hereford v Hartlepool; Northampton v York; Wigan v Wimbledon.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

Postponed: Celtic v Hibs; Hearts v Morton; Motherwell v Dundee Utd; Rangers v Aberdeen; St. Mirren v Partick.

IN SHOOT NEXT WEEK!

Colour: Osvaldo Ardiles (Tottenham); West Brom team group; Tommy Booth (Manchester City); Sammy Irvine (Stoke City); Barry Powell (Coventry City), Ray Dunlop (Hearts) and Focus on Dave O'Leary (Arsenal).

Features: Exclusive interview with Tottenham's Argentinian World Cup star Ardiles. Club Spotlight on West Brom. Big Match Crosstalk — F.A. Cup Fifth Round tie between Nottingham Forest and Arsenal at the City Ground. We select a Fourth Division team based on form so far this season.

Former Football League referee Jack Taylor talks about his future.

Top goalkeepers John Jackson (Orient), Peter Bonetti (Chelsea), in action below, Jim Montgomery (Birmingham City), Bobby Clark (Aberdeen) and Kevin Keelan (Norwich) reveal, among other things, their greatest saves, worst moments and the finest keepers they've seen.



All this plus your usual favourites such as star-writers Ray Clemence, Gordon McQueen, Andy Gray and Derek Johnstone in SHOOT next week.

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KEVIN KEEGAN

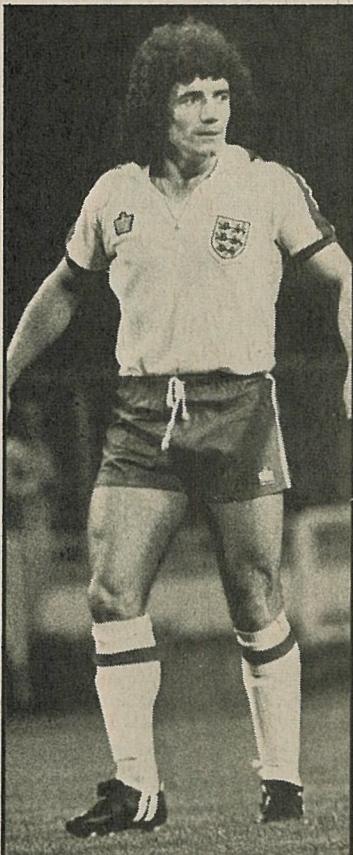
*could have
played for
Preston*

EUROPEAN Footballer of the Year Kevin Keegan is possibly the best England player since Tom Finney. And the frustrating thing for Preston followers is that he could have been signed by North End eight years ago to take over from Finney as the Deepdale idol.

England manager Ron Greenwood has said that he is one of the three best players in the world.

It is difficult to argue with that claim, for the Doncaster-born forward has been consistently successful at international level and at club level with both Liverpool and Hamburger S.V., who signed him from Liverpool for about £500,000. Yet Liverpool bought him from Scunthorpe United after the end of the 1970/71 season for only £30,000 plus the usual percentages.

He was a midfield man then and Preston had watched him several times. Then North End manager Alan Ball and director Tom Gore, who is still on the board, went on a secret



spying mission to Scunthorpe in November, 1970.

Keegan helped his side to beat Mansfield Town 3-1 in an F.A. Cup tie and Preston made a bid of £12,000 for him immediately after the game.

Scunthorpe's manager Ron Ashman asked for £30,000, however, and a deal could not be clinched.

North End then raised their offer by instalments in the next few weeks before making a final bid of £22,500 which was rejected.

Ball was quoted in the local newspaper as saying that Keegan would be worth £100,000 within a year, but the North End directors did not make another offer and Liverpool eventually moved in.

Former Preston captain Andy Beattie recommended the player to Liverpool's then manager Bill Shankly and "Shanks" bought him without having seen him!

Shanks decided that Keegan was better suited to a more attacking role after watching him in Liverpool's practice games during the summer of 1971, however, and put him in the first team at the start of the 1971/72 season.

Most people know the story from that point. Keegan became an Anfield star and then established himself as an England player.

He won League Championship, FA Cup and European Cup honours with Liverpool and it was a sad day

when he moved to Germany in 1977.

Would he have reached the soccer heights if he had joined Preston instead of Liverpool?

That is a hypothetical question. But Tom Finney has said that he believes Keegan would have become just as famous.

North End won the Third Division Championship in the 1970/71 season and Keegan would presumably have played for Preston upon their return to Division Two.

Ball was finally sacked in 1973 and Frank Lord took over as caretaker manager before Bobby Charlton was appointed.

Resigned

Preston were then relegated to Division Three at the end of the 1973/74 season and Charlton, who turned out as player-manager for the first year in the Third Division, resigned at the start of the 1975/76 season when the directors fixed up an exchange deal bringing Alex Bruce back to Preston for defender John Bird and £60,000.

Harry Catterick was appointed manager but was ousted before the start of last season which ended with North End gaining promotion back to Division Two under new manager Nobby Stiles.

It's doubtful if Keegan would have still been a North End player if he had joined Preston in 1970.

But at least North End would have had a much more successful period and Kevin would have become an England star although he may not have made the same impact as he has done.



BRYAN ROBSON
(West Ham)

'Hammers can't afford to concede any more points at this stage'

LEE: I'm looking forward to this game, Bryan — West Ham are noted for good football, and this gives us a chance to show some of our own.

ROBSON: Well, we've played better since we adjusted to the Second Division, Bob. At first, we were a little apprehensive about the football at this level, and were inclined to think it would be physical — so we were more defensive than usual. Later, we went back to an attacking style, and it's paid dividends.

LEE: West Ham's goals-for column is quite impressive at home, and as the match is on your ground, we can expect you to come at us. At Roker, we find that teams close up against us, which makes it difficult. In fact, we find that we serve up some of our best football away, and when travelling we've done well against Notts County, Luton and Charlton.

ROBSON: I certainly don't anticipate a defensive game at Upton Park. But if there was any chance of that, I would look forward to an early goal being scored, which would force the team that was behind to play a more open game. And I can see two or three goals coming during the 90 minutes, though I'm not predicting the result.

LEE: When it comes to goals, that's something you know all about. At Sunderland, we are well

BIG MATCH CROSS TALK

between West Ham United striker Bryan Robson and Sunderland midfielder Bob Lee

WEST HAM v SUNDERLAND

Saturday, February 10th, 1979



Double action from Sunderland's home League tussle against West Ham in September. Hammers (light strip) lost 2-1.

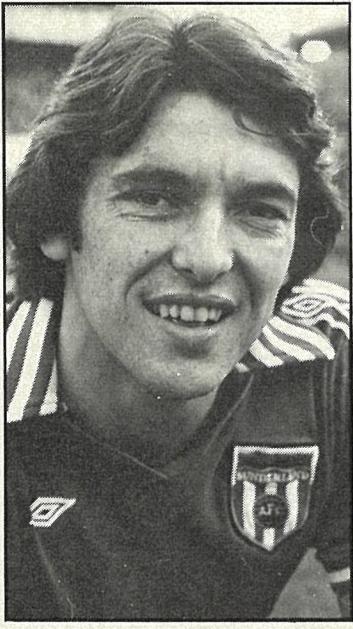


aware that you've been scoring regularly and are playing right up-front these days.

ROBSON: That's true, and I'm happy to say that David Cross and I have a good understanding and help each other, which is so important. And speaking of positions, I notice that you are in midfield now, and had your first match for Sunderland in that position, against West Ham. In the front line, Gary Rowell has been doing his stuff for you — I recall that when I was with Sunderland, Gary was a very good prospect who used the ball intelligently.

LEE: Yes, Gary is fulfilling his early promise, and is always ready to have a shot at goal, as his goal-scoring record shows. In fact he scored both goals when we beat you at Roker earlier in the season. In some ways he reminds me of you in his ability to snap up goals, and I'm hoping that he will be on the target at Upton Park.

ROBSON: My chief wish is that West Ham put on a better show this time than in our previous meeting with Sunderland, at Roker Park in September. The form we showed that day was too bad to be true, and we deserved to lose. But



BOB LEE
(Sunderland)

'We play some of our best football away'

we can't afford to concede any points at this stage of the season if we mean to make a promotion bid.

LEE: Along with West Ham, Sunderland are among the leading clubs with a chance of going up, and I think that any of the top eight clubs can come into the promotion reckoning. Two very strong contenders, though, are Crystal Palace and Brighton, and we would like to decrease the lead they have on us.

ROBSON: I know how you feel — indeed, I would be much happier if West Ham were sitting at the top of the table. They say there is more pressure when you are at the top, but I wouldn't mind that.

LEE: One extra incentive that we have for winning as many games as possible in the second half of the season, is to prove ourselves to our new manager, Billy Elliott. Our early matches under him didn't bring us many points, and from now to April we must keep on pegging away to make up for lost ground.

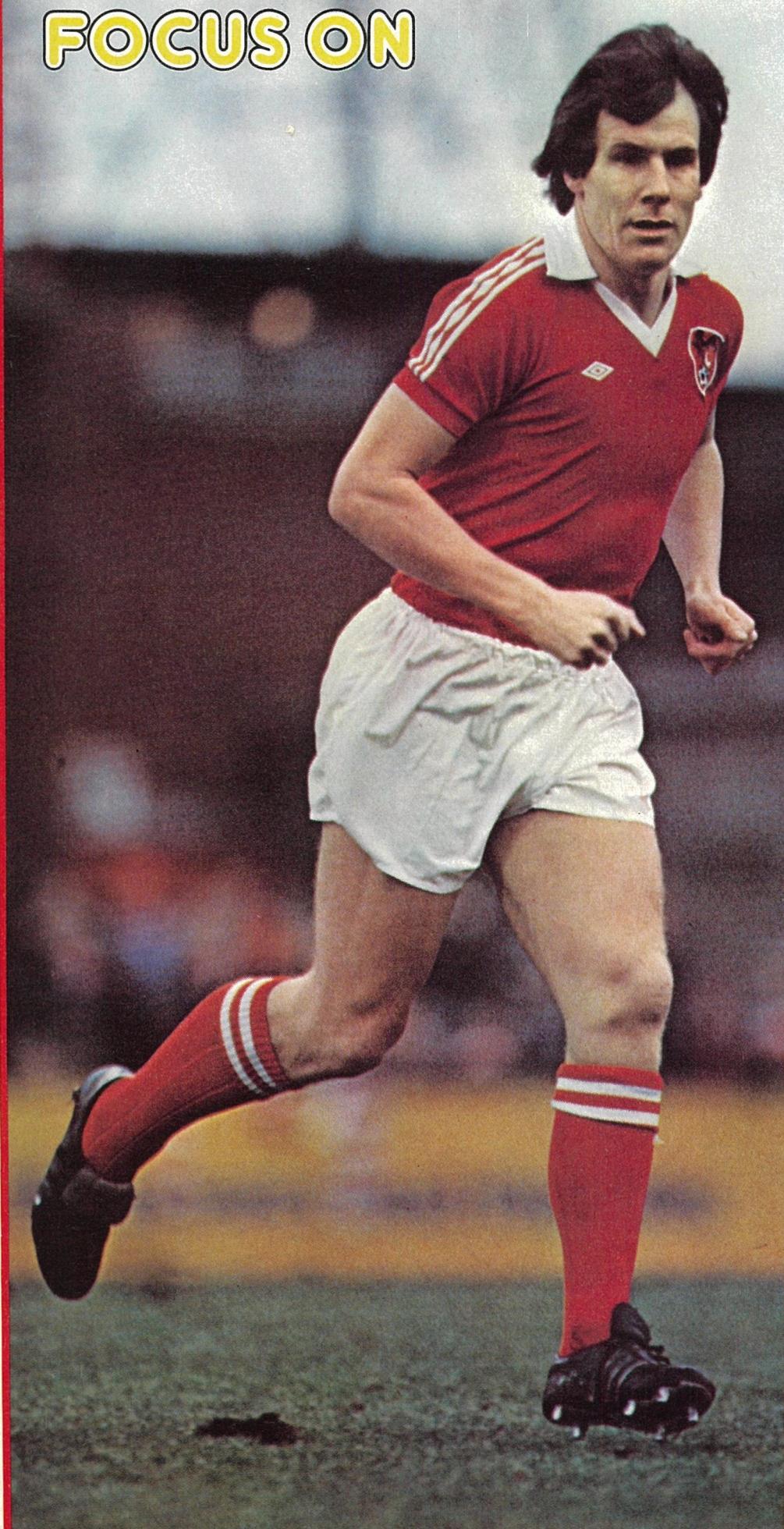
ROBSON: At the start of our talk, Bob, you mentioned that you enjoyed playing against West Ham. In my case, there is the pleasure of turning out against my old club — I want us to win, but later I don't mind Sunderland being promoted, as long as we top the table at the end of the season.

LEE: If both of us went up, that would suit me, Bryan. Meanwhile, here's to us providing an entertaining match for the fans at Upton Park on Saturday.



**RICARDO VILLA
TOTTENHAM**

FOCUS ON



JOE ROYLE

Bristol City

FULL NAME: Joseph Royle
BIRTHPLACE: Liverpool
BIRTHDATE: 8th April, 1949
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 14st
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Everton and Manchester City
MARRIED: To Janet
CHILDREN: Lee 7 and Darren 4
CAR: Cortina 2.0 GL
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Former Manchester United star, Bobby Charlton
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Everton
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Former Liverpool defender, Ron Yeats
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Everton v. Liverpool, 1970 when Everton won 2-0
BIGGEST THRILL: Winning the 1969-70 League Championship whilst with Everton
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing in the 1968 F.A. Cup Final, with Everton, to West Brom
BEST COUNTRIES VISITED: America and Israel
FAVOURITE FOOD: Chinese
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: 4.45 pm every Saturday when we win
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Smoking
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: M*A*S*H, Horizon, Public Eye and T.V. movies
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Linda Ronstadt, Eagles, The Hollies and Fleetwood Mac
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESSES: Paul Newman, Janet Key and Susan George
BEST FRIEND: I've many
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON MY CAREER: My parents and the surgeon who cured my back injury
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Playing on frozen pitches
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Youth, Under-23, Inter-League and full caps for England
PERSONAL AMBITION: To retire at 40 to a warm country that's tax free
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To win a Cup winner's medal
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? Very rich!
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Actress, Susan George

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Striker Paul Fletcher reveals

'BURNLEY'S MISSING LINK'

AT Christmastime, last season, Burnley stood rooted at the bottom of the Second Division with apparently no hope of avoiding relegation. Then came the resurgence — 28 points in 20 games enabled the Turf Moor outfit to end the campaign in 11th position.

This term the club has continued where it left off and at just past the halfway mark find themselves five points from a promotion spot. So how has the transformation taken place?

"I think it all started when Brian Hall and Steve Kindon joined the club," says striker Paul Fletcher. "They were the missing link. The new blood gave us confidence. We went out to put the other team under pressure instead of the other way round, and it worked."

"There are other factors as well. We've now got Leighton James and he's blended into the side quite well. He's taken over from Terry Cochrane, who left for Middlesbrough. Terry was an out and out right-winger, but Leighton has the ability to play either in midfield or up-front."

"Alan Stevenson, the goalkeeper, is really turning it on and there's Billy Ingham who's coming up. Peter Noble is playing well — as he always does. He's still the



Paul Fletcher climbs to head over the Crystal Palace bar.

driving force and a great captain. All the lads look up to him.

"We won the Anglo-Scottish Cup which started off as pre-season friendlies. But we carried off the trophy and it did us a power of good. We were doing well in the competition and we were playing two games per week, and while we continued to win it kept team spirit up.

"Manager, Harry Potts, is doing

a marvellous job. He's got a winning team and that's the most important thing. The lads are all pulling together and we play a good system. We go to attack sides and we try to play entertaining football."

"Harry is one of the 'old brigade'. He loves the game as much as any kiddy does. To him, formations don't mean a thing. There's no set pattern at Burnley. Sometimes

Leighton James uses his versatility by switching from midfield to striker without any problems. We swap and change. We've 11 defenders and 11 attackers.

"Stoke City and Crystal Palace are the best teams we've played this season. But in general I think the Second Division is littered with very average sides."

"Six years ago when we topped the table it was a far tougher League to win than it is now. Any number of teams can go up and, in my opinion, the standard has certainly dropped."

Overboard

Despite the promise of better things to come nobody at Burnley is going overboard and talking about promotion.

"Obviously it's something that is at the back of everyone's minds," says Paul. "But, after two disastrous seasons, we're just wanting to consolidate and to get into a good position. Football is such a strange game you can't bank on anything."

"We're going out to win each individual match as it comes along. If we're still amongst the leaders with 12 games to go, then I think that's the time to start talking about going up".

'I'M RARIN' TO GO . . .'

IT'S great to be back. Gone but not forgotten are those bad old days when the future of Danny McGrain was in jeopardy.

Make no mistake I am 100 per cent fit again and the mystery ankle injury, which kept me out of action for 15 months is definitely a thing of the past.

I realised that my recovery was complete in Estoril, near Lisbon, when we thrashed the local side 4-0 in a friendly.

The vital moment came when a defender crashed into me hitting me with everything except his rhythm stick and I really felt it. But the pain was over in an instant, and I knew my ankle had passed a vital test.

The only other trouble I had in that match was a touch of cramp towards the end, but that was

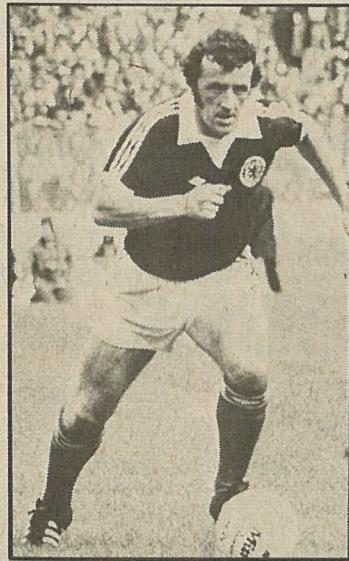
understandable considering the heavy pitch and the fact that I had been out of first team action for so long.

Besides, the cramp proved to me that I had been holding absolutely nothing back.

The next test came in a friendly against Clyde at Shawfield. We won 3-0 and I felt as good as I ever did.

The game against Clyde was an ideal test because the First Division club are a good club and I admire very much manager Craig Brown's loyalty in staying with the club when he could have gone to Ayr United.

Incidentally many people have commented on something I said in SHOOT a couple of weeks back about me not playing the same way when I get back into the Celtic



Celtic's Davie Provan (centre) is tackled by Alex Forsyth of Rangers.

Tartan Talk **DANNY**
McGRAIN

first team on a regular basis again.

I explained that as Celts have an out and out right-winger in Davie Provan there would be less need for me to overlap. Besides, I am one and a half years older now and my style of play would have changed even if I had not been injured.

Meanwhile, despite the weather shattering the season it is still all happening on the Scottish football front.

For example, I wish Rangers all the best in the Quarter-Finals of the European Cup. I don't have to tell manager John Greig that he could not have drawn tougher opponents than West German Champions Cologne.

But Rangers have had it tough all the way and they still disposed of Juventus and PSV Eindhoven. Who would dare bet against Scotland's Champions doing the same with Cologne?

As I write I do not know how Scotland's vital European Championship match with Belgium at Hampden has gone, but I was very impressed with the pool manager Jock Stein selected.

My condolences though to Manchester United's Gordon McQueen who didn't make it, although the Scotland boss made it clear that "GO-GO" still has an international future in front of him and was only out of this game because of loss of form.

But I can tell Gordon that missing a Scotland game or two is not the end of the world although it might seem like it to him.

My injury has kept me out for some time but let me tell you SHOOT readers that I have already decided my next target is a comeback to the Scottish team in the British Championship in May and the friendly against World Champions Argentina, at Hampden, on June 2nd.

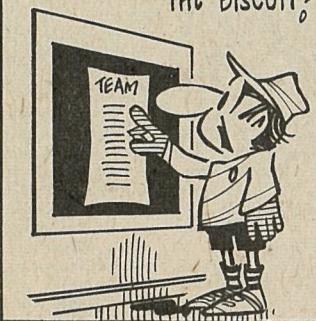
See you in two weeks.

Danny McGrain

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN
TALK BY RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE

NOBBY

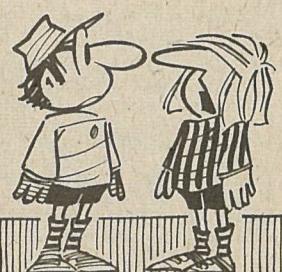
WELL, IF THAT DOESN'T TAKE THE BISCUIT!



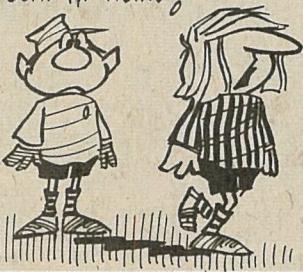
WE DIDN'T PLAY LAST WEEK
AND YET I'VE BEEN DROPPED



YES, BUT THE POOLS PANEL
HAD US DOWN FOR A SCORE DRAW



AND THE BOSS WAS LIVID
ABOUT US CONCEDING A GOAL AT HOME!



WORLD Cup success means little in the three European club competitions. Despite reaching the Finals in Argentina, Holland and France don't have any clubs left in Europe, while "failures" England still have four of their sides competing.

WEST GERMANS LEAD CHASE FOR EURO CUPS

COUNTRY AND NUMBER OF CLUBS ORIGINALLY ENTERED	E.C.	TEAMS SURVIVING	TOTAL LEFT IN %
West Germany 6	1.FC Cologne	E.C.W.C. Fort. Dusseldorf	Mönchengladbach, Hertha, Duisburg 5 83
England 7	Forest	Ipswich	W.B.A. Man. City 4 52
Switzerland 4	Grasshoppers	Servette	— 2 50
East Germany 4	D. Dresden	Magdeburg	— 2 50
Czechoslovakia 4	—	Ostrava	Dukla Prague 2 50
Poland 4	Wisla Krakow	—	— 1 25
Yugoslavia 4	—	—	Red Star 1 25
Scotland 4	Rangers	—	— 1 25
Hungary 4	—	—	Honved 1 25
Austria 4	Austria	Vienna	— 1 25
Sweden 4	Malmö	—	— 1 25
Spain 5	—	Barcelona	— 1 20
Belgium 5	—	Beveren	— 1 20
Italy 6	—	Inter	— 1 16

ALL OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE LOST ALL THEIR EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES

KEEGAN FOR ENGLAND?

ONCE again, Kevin Keegan will miss the British Championship in May and it's possible he won't be released for the vital European Championship tie in Bulgaria on June 6th. Hamburger SV are in the running for the Bundesliga title and their last game is on June 9th, away to Bayern Munich.

Whether HSV will release Kevin three days before what could be a crucial match is debatable. England then play Sweden and Austria, and as the game in Sweden is the day after KK's final League game, Ron Greenwood wouldn't expect him to play twice in two days. So England, who have done so well with Kevin's inspiration, may find themselves without him this summer.

MARIO MARRIED

MARIO Kempes' wedding to Spanish girl Maria Vicenta Moll was quite an occasion in Valencia, with hordes of reporters from all over the world mingling with the 210 invited guests and the crowds of uninvited on-lookers.

The bride's father refused to attend the ceremony for "personal reasons", leaving Mario's father to pick up a £3,000 bill for the four-course meal with two wines, champagne and spirits. During the reception, the guests accounted for 100 bottles of champagne, 50 of red wine, 50 of white wine and 11 of whisky — and a good time was had by all.

The five-tier wedding cake was decorated with Argentinian and Valencian flags. Incidentally, Mario and Maria had left their wedding list in a large department store in Valencia, and the total value of their gifts was around £3,500.

Good luck to you, Mario!

tribunal he was awarded £6,000 compensation.

MSV Duisburg players were offered 3,500 DM (almost £1,000) to qualify for the U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter-Finals, but Austrian international Kurt Jara told directors: "VfB Stuttgart are on 5,000 DM."

Finally Duisburg agreed on 4,000 DM a man — £1,000 each.

NEWS FLASHES

At the halfway stage in the Belgian First Division, 385 goals had been scored in the 154 games; 27 penalties converted out of 41; 208 yellow cards and five red cards shown; average attendance 10,900; top scorer Ruud Geels of Anderlecht with 19 goals. SK Beveren led by four points.

Schalke 04 sacked their youth coach, Dutchman Van Haaren not long ago, but when he appealed to a West German labour

AFTER having supplied Italy, Spain, France, England (Dan Ekner), Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Scotland (Orjan Persson and Lennart Wing), Holland and West Germany with nearly 100 top players since the War, Swedish clubs have at last decided to import players themselves. Malmö FF have signed Brazilian winger Monteiro from Vitoria Bahia on loan. The contract runs for one year and cost Malmö only £11,000.

MSV Duisburg beat Racing Strasbourg 4-0 in the U.E.F.A. Cup.

West Germany lead the way, with five out of their six clubs surviving, while other "failures" East Germany, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia are also doing reasonably well.

It is very important for English clubs to have a good run in Europe because from 1980/81, the number of teams each country has in the U.E.F.A. Cup will depend on performances of its clubs from 1974/75. In a nutshell, the more "points" accumulated by English clubs since then (two for a win,

one for a draw) the more sides they will have in the U.E.F.A. Cup in the future.

At the beginning of this season, West Germany led the "table", followed by Holland, England, Belgium and the U.S.S.R. The failure of Dutch clubs this season will be a big help to England.

● EINTRACHT Frankfurt have appointed Friedl Rausch to be their coach for next season. They interviewed 22 candidates.

Carry on Coutinho



THE Brazilian authorities have confirmed Claudio Coutinho is to continue as manager of the national team, even though Brazil don't, at the moment, actually have a national team. But when they start playing again, Coutinho will still be in charge, surprising in view of the criticism he took during the World Cup.

Meanwhile, he's signed a new contract with Flamengo worth around £3,500 per month.

Flamengo won the Rio League, beating Vasco da Gama 1-0 in front of 200,000 fans in the Maracana, thanks to an 89th minute goal by full-back Rondinelli.

After the game, there was a massive traffic jam in Rio as literally millions of people with flags and drums celebrated all night. Flamengo gave away 2,000 litres of beer to fans who gathered at the club after the match!

Brazilians know how to celebrate!



EXPENSIVE SEND-OFF

BARCELONA'S long and futile legal battle to have Johan Cruyff's three-match suspension overruled has come to an end after 23 months of useless legal wrangling. Cruyff was sent-off for insulting referee Melero during a Barça-Málaga match on February 6th, 1977, but the Dutchman denied the accusation.

The Spanish F.A. subsequently suspended Johan for three matches (including a vital one against Real Madrid), so the club decided to appeal to the Supreme Court to have the decision reversed!

Two years later, a High Court judge has ruled the F.A.'s decision was correct. In the meantime, the legal proceedings have cost Barcelona £40,000...

HI-JACK THREAT TO LUBANSKI



POLISH stars Włodzimierz Lubanski and Jan Tomaszewski, who play in Belgium, have been the target of hi-jackers. Two men called at Lubanski's house — or at least they thought it was his house, but the Pole had moved two months previously.

Mr. Vacevovsky, the Lokeren youth trainer moved in when the Lubanski sold their home; as he answered the door, the men fired two shots in panic and ran away. When Lubanski heard of this, he immediately took his family to Poland.

Tomaszewski was given police protection and so far the hijackers have done no more. The reason for all this is that one of their friends is being held prisoner in Poland for trying to smuggle an East German woman to the West.

AFTER 17 games in the Mexican League Universidad Nuevo León lead the field with 25 points, though their lead was cut to two points when they dropped a home point in a 0-0 draw with Cruz Azul. Their chief rivals are Universidad (23 points), Toluca (21), Guadalajara and Cruz Azul (both with 20).

But the talking point in Mexico is still the poor form of Brazilian star Dirceu, who, like so many 1978 World Cup players, is not producing the goods.

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In February's action-packed issue read:
How England are ready to lay old ghosts at Wembley...
The amazing life-story of Mario Kempes...
The Liverpool Phenomenon...
Danny McGrain's stinging attack on English football...
The Class and Controversy of Leeds United...
The Diary of a Dutchman, Johan Cruyff...
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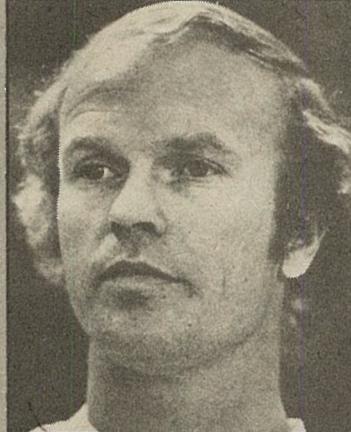
ALONG with Gerd Müller, Hans Krankl and Carlos Bianchi, Ruud Geels has come to be regarded among the elite of Europe's most consistent goal-scorers at club level. Belgian fans were anxious to see whether the balding Dutch striker could continue his free-scoring when he was transferred from Ajax to play alongside Rob Rensenbrink in the star-studded Anderlecht side. Geels hasn't let them down...

Since his arrival in Brussels, Ruud Geels has amply confirmed his reputation by averaging just over a goal a game for his new club. Anderlecht's form has been

Anderlecht my job is also to score goals, but I have a lot more freedom to play a more complete role in the team's attacking football.

"I think my team-mates are perhaps generally more skilful, so there's more all-round support. What's more, I'm thoroughly enjoying moving around a lot and not playing such a static role. I'm able to show that I've got ball skills instead of just being expected to belt the ball into the back of the net!"

Anderlecht's manager, Raymond Goethals, is an explosive, controversial character — the Brian Clough of Belgian football.



score so many goals, because that means headlines in the papers and journalists on my back all the time!

"Sometimes that even crosses my mind when I'm out on the pitch! If I score I often think the phone won't stop ringing for a couple of days! I don't really like all the publicity — I prefer the quiet life."

Maybe his preference for the quiet life was one of the reasons behind his refusal to travel to Argentina with the Holland World Cup squad last June. Many Dutch fans would like to have seen an attacking trio of Rep, Geels and Rensenbrink, and reckon in the

'A pity I score so many goals'

says ace striker Ruud Geels

extraordinarily erratic, ranging from seven-goal victories to amazing defeats, such as the team's Cup-Winners' Cup exit in Barcelona.

Even so, Geels is more than happy at the way things have turned out since his transfer. "My last few seasons at Ajax were all right, but they used me simply as a goal-machine. We played a purely counter-attacking style of game, and I was left to 'maraud' on my own up-front. Usually they pumped high balls at me and my job was to nod them in. Here at

Although he's definitely not happy with the team's overall consistency, he's delighted with the way Geels has fitted in.

"We needed a goalscorer and the choice was between Geels and Krankl — the two top scorers in Europe last season. I compared their records and their personalities and chose Geels. We've already got four Dutch players in the team (De Bree, Haan, Dusbaba and Rensenbrink) so I knew he wouldn't have too many problems in adapting to his new team.

I knew he was fast, skilful and a

great header of the ball, but I didn't expect him to be so unselfish! Normally strikers are obsessed with scoring goals themselves, but Geels is not only scoring them but making them as well. What more could you ask?"

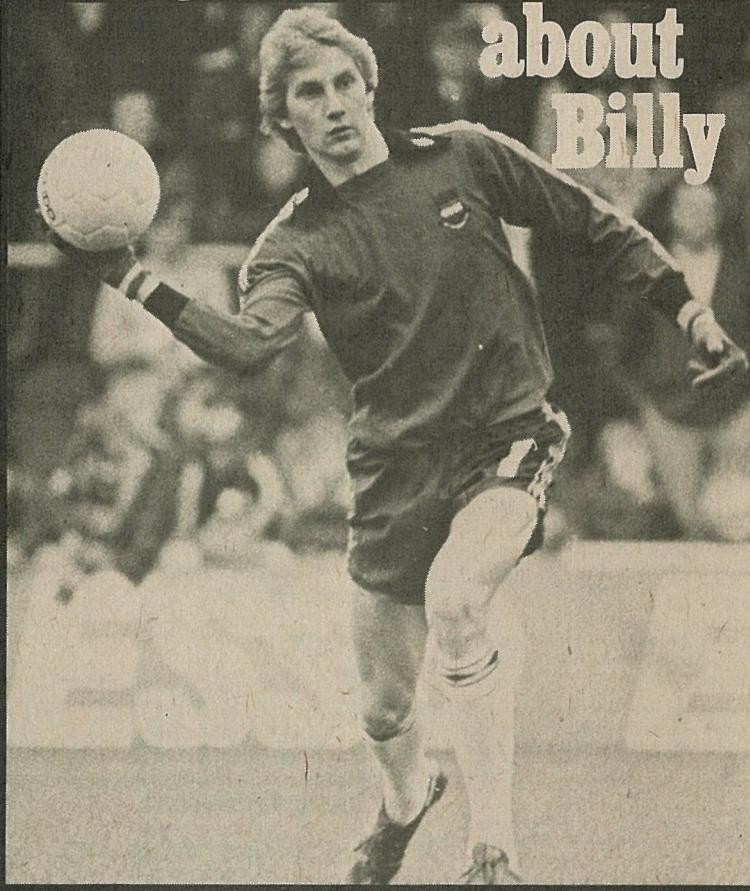
Geels' unselfishness on the field is readily understood when you meet him. He's serious, polite, reserved and, in civilian clothes, doesn't look the least bit like a professional footballer.

"To be honest, I don't like having to talk about football with everyone I meet. I think it's a pity I

Final his heading ability would have created havoc in the Argentinian defence, as substitute Nanninga proved when he headed the equaliser.

Geels is reluctant to talk about the subject. "It certainly wasn't money problems that stopped me from going, as some people have said. Let's just say that I wasn't convinced that the team spirit would be very much to my liking. And team spirit is a very important factor in my opinion."

They're all raving about Billy



ALFIE Conn weaved majestically through the St. Mirren rear-guard. A goal looked an absolute certainty as the Celt bore down on unprotected goalkeeper Billy Thomson.

The 'keeper came off his line, Conn looked up and instinctively lobbed the ball over Thomson's head. The fans were already applauding a fine goal when Thomson took off on a breathtaking sideways leap to his left and got a hand to the ball to turn it round the post.

It was a piece of brilliant individualism and the first man to congratulate Thomson was Alfie Conn. He'd just been thwarted, but could still find time to appreciate the fine skill of the Scottish Under-21 star.

Thomson is getting rave notices in Scotland at the moment with his supreme consistency. Manager Jim Clunie, who paid £50,000 to take Thomson from the Partick Thistle reserve side, is delighted with his buy.

"He's got a great pair of hands," says Clunie. "He's really got everything a good goalkeeper should have."

Thomson was in the shadow of Alan Rough at Firhill, but when he did make rare appearances in the top team he won many admirers. He was too good to remain out of the spotlight and he is proving that week-in, week-out with the ambitious St. Mirren side from Love Street.

He has helped stop the flow of goals that bedevilled Saints last year and he says: "I'm really enjoying myself here. They are a great bunch of lads and the club is cer-

tainly going in the right direction. I admit I am ambitious and that is why I jumped at the opportunity of joining such an ambitious club."

Thomson works hard at his job. Each day at training he is peppered with shots from his Love Street colleagues and after that he goes through a routine of plucking crosses out of the air from right and left-wings.

Then he works on his own with special exercises. For a youngster he has incredible maturity and it is displayed on the pitch. That save from Alfie Conn was just one of many fine saves he pulled off that afternoon. The Saints lost 2-1, but he had little chance with either goal — one a penalty-kick from Andy Lynch and the other a close-in effort from Conn.

He had two saves in the first-half that almost brought the house down. One came from a blistering header by Tom McAdam. It was zooming into the top corner of the net until Thomson suddenly took off in a stunning leap to clutch it just under the crossbar.

And that save was equalled a couple of minutes later when Davie Provan swung over a cross from the left-wing and Johannes Edvaldsson connected about eight yards out. His header was well placed, but Thomson read the situation perfectly and dived swiftly to his right to hold the ball.

Thomson is now aiming to take over from Alan Rough in the top international side. That could come in a couple of years' time... and if it does he could be the answer to the problem position that has jinxed international sides for so many years.

IN just over a year, Hibs have collected something in the region of £250,000 with the transfers of John Blackley and John Brownlie to Newcastle and Bobby Smith who recently moved down south to Leicester City.

The Easter Road side are known as the big sellers of Scottish soccer as they unload talent at the right price season after season. The likes of Colin Stein, Peter Marinello, Alex Cropley and Peter Cormack, to name just a few, have been spirited out of Edinburgh when the cheque books have been produced.

However, at the same time Hibs' manager Eddie Turnbull has been busy in the transfer market himself and, although the sale of Smith to

He is the possessor of uncanny skills, but sometimes, alas, Lambie tends to drift right out of the game. He began his career with St. Johnstone as an outside-left.

Rangers were reported to be interested at the time, but the Perth Saints were the first in for his services. He started to make a name for himself as a direct, raiding flanker who could finish off moves with deadly accuracy.

Then, when he moved to Dundee, he adopted a midfield role. Again, he looked impressive, but his career just didn't take off.

Eventually, he moved to West Germany and now he is back in Scotland in the hot-bed of the Premier Division and it is in this demanding set-up he is

HIBS-SCOTLAND'S SUPER-SELLERS

Leicester took the headlines, Hibs were involved in another transfer deal that day.

Turnbull paid out a modest £12,000 to West German club FC Furth for former Dundee and St. Johnstone forward Duncan Lambie, the brother of Hibs' backroom boy John Lambie.

A fee of £12,000 can only be described as peanuts in today's inflation-riddled market yet that could turn out to be money extremely well spent. Lambie could become the bargain of the season if he recaptures the form that made him such a dazzling prospect not that long ago.

"I'm glad to be back in Scotland," says Lambie. "I enjoyed myself in West Germany and I'll put the experience to good use. However, it's nice to return to my homeland and Hibs, a team I have always admired."

Lambie was making a good living in West Germany, but he still feels he has something to prove to Scottish fans. He knows he has never lived up to his earlier promise.

desperate to show his qualities.

No one doubts his ability. One flash of the player can turn an entire game, but those were few and far between in his latter days with Dundee.

Turnbull is known as a tough manager who accepts no nonsense. All the players at Easter Road respect him and they know he can be a tough character if he feels certain individuals are not pulling their weight.

Turnbull could be good for Lambie. And there is little doubt an on-form Lambie could be good for Hibs.

The combination is intriguing as well as being potentially exciting. Will Lambie at last show his class on a consistent level? Or will he shade off again just when the going looks good?

He is clearly more mature, his game is more rounded. There is an urgency about him that augurs well for the future.

John Brownlie (below) was sold to Newcastle.



'THE BUZZ' hasn't lost his sting



IT is not every player who has the ability to get over the trauma of losing something near and dear to him. Hearts' midfield dynamo Drew Busby (above, right), one of the most rugged players in the Premier Division, has managed to fight his way through two such upheavals.

THE FIRST was back in 1967 when Third Lanark folded. Busby was a player at Cathkin Park then and could have been forgiven for thinking that soccer wasn't going to be his selected profession, after all.

THE SECOND came in 1971 when he lost his partner in goals — Drew Jarvie — at Airdrie. Busby and Jarvie were a double-act that made the Broomfield side one of the most enterprising North of the border. It was only a matter of time before someone came along to split it up and that person was former Aberdeen manager Jimmy Bonthrone who paid £70,000 for Jarvie to take him to Pittodrie. Those were two 'losses' to Busby, but, with typical courage, he has fought back to become one of the most consistent players in

Scotland.

"Of course, it was a sad day when Third Lanark finally went to the wall," says Busby. "They were a great little club with a hard core of very loyal fans."

"Alas, the harsh reality of the game meant the club could not survive without funds."

After a spell in the wilderness of soccer Busby found his way to Airdrie and his career really took off in a storm of goals.

He became a battering-ram in a two-pronged attack along with Jarvie. Busby was hitting goals galore against all sorts of opposition and so, too, was Jarvie. Both were immense when little Airdrie reached the Semi-Final of the Scottish Cup nine years ago.

They faced the might of Celtic at Hampden that afternoon and both starred as the Broomfield part-timers shocked the then Scottish Champions with a 3-3 draw. However, there was little Busby or Jarvie could do to prevent Celtic from winning the replay.

Busby took his scoring ability to Tynecastle when former manager Bobby Seith paid out £40,000 for him. Seith was looking for a goalscorer and he knew Busby would do a good job for him.

Only a week before the deal went through Airdrie played Hearts at Tynecastle and won 1-0. Who scored the goal? None other than Drew Busby.

"Funnily enough that was the first time I had ever scored at Tynecastle," says Busby. "I had never found it a particularly happy ground for me."

"However, I was delighted to get my move when it eventually came along. Now, needless to say, Tynecastle is one of my favourite grounds!"

Busby has been playing in the middle of the park in recent seasons, but he has not lost that knack of scoring valuable goals.

Celtic will surely testify to that. They went down 2-0 at Tynecastle earlier in the season and Busby was the man who did the damage with two long-range efforts.

The first simply raged past the diving Peter Latchford and the second was a cunningly hit dipping shot that caught Latchford unawares as it swerved into the net.

Busby also scored two against Rangers this season at Ibrox, but, unhappily for the player, big Derek Johnstone put four past Ray Dunlop and the Glasgow side won 5-3.

Scottish soccer is crying out for gutsy performers such as Drew Busby. Tynecastle manager Willie Ormond is a contented man with a player of this calibre in the hustle, bustle of the midfield.

Busby certainly earns the nickname of 'The Buzz'. When you see him in all-out action you understand why that tag sits so snugly.

STEWART RENNIE- The goalkeeper who won't lie down

so impressive at one stage he was being tipped for international honours.

Then his soccer wheel of fortune took another whirl when McLean signed Ally Hunter from Celtic for £30,000. It seemed destined Motherwell would sign a Celtic goalkeeper after all!

Hunter displaced Rennie, but again he came fighting back. Eventually, Hunter was freed by McLean and moved on to St Mirren, who also gave him a free transfer at the end of the season.

With Rennie back in the first team everything looked good ... until McLean left Motherwell and Roger Hynd took over the running of the team.

Hynd worked hard in the transfer market during his brief stay at Fir Park and his first deal was to pay £25,000 to Birmingham for his former team-mate Dave Latchford, a goalkeeper.

"I thought: 'Here we go again'", says Rennie. "Dave got glowing reports from Roger Hynd and, because I'm a part-timer, I couldn't make the club's pre-season tour of Norway.

"Dave went on the tour and, by all reports, he played very well. Not surprisingly, he was the man in charge when this season started."

Motherwell, however, slumped down the League as they lost goals at a ridiculous rate and, eventually, the

unfortunate Latchford, like his brother Peter at Celtic, was dropped. In again came Rennie and as he was settling in again Hynd moved on!

Now Ally MacLeod is in charge of the Fir Park outfit. Rennie is waiting for the next move in his complicated

soccer life style. But there is a word of warning for any would-be successors ... don't forget the never-say-die spirit of Stewart Rennie, the goalkeeper who refuses to lie down.

Rennie (below) in action.



TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time



1. Wembley Stadium's twin towers are 70ft., 126ft. or 195ft. high?

2. Chelsea's Steve Wicks (below) was transferred to which other First Division club recently?



3. Orient's talented young striker John Chiedozie has been linked with which First Division club?

4. Was it 1958, 1962 or 1966 that former England captain Bobby Moore first appeared in the World Cup Finals?

5. You should know Phil Parkes keeps goal for Queens Park Rangers. But for which club was another Phil Parkes a goalkeeper last season?

6. Tottenham's Peter Taylor (below) played 122, 132 or 142 League games and scored 23, 33 or 43 League goals for his former club Crystal Palace?

7. How many points did Wales collect in last season's British Championship?

8. Before deciding against playing in the States this Summer European Footballer of the Year Kevin Keegan (right) would have earned £65,000 for three months with Washington Diplomats, Seattle Sounders or Tulsa Roughnecks?

9. John Benson resigned as manager of which Fourth Division club for personal reasons?



13. Select the striker from the following — Peter Latchford (Celtic), Willie Pettigrew (Motherwell) or Willie Miller (Aberdeen)?

14. Norwich City manager John Bond was reportedly interested in a former Carrow Road player who is now playing in the Fourth Division. Can you name him?

15. Former Chelsea striker Bill Garner is scoring for which Second Division club this season?

16. Which six First Division clubs have never won the F.A. Cup?

17. Which country — Iran, Peru or Finland — have the Republic of Ireland never played?

18. Phil Boersma has played for Swansea City, Wrexham (on loan), Liverpool and Middlesbrough, but not in that order ... can you rearrange them correctly?

19. F.A. Youth Cup holders Crystal Palace moved into Round Four when they beat which London club 2-0?

20. With which First Division club should Israel international Abi Cohen have spent a ten-day trial period?

ANSWERS:

10. Can you name the two trophies — one domestic and one European — that Leeds United captured in the 1967-68 season?

11. True or false. Allan Hunter of Ipswich Town began his League career with Blackburn Rovers?

12. Who was the first black player to represent England at Under-21 level?

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS:

ACROSS:— (1) Car. (5) Pink. (8) Location. (11) Stair. (12) Shot. (14) John Deehan. (16) Sea. (18) Rare. (19) Steve. (21) Free. (23) Acacia. (26) Nape. (28) Numerical. (29) Net. (30) Neat. (32) Flat. (33) Hot.

DOWN:— (2) Also. (3) Rotherham. (4) Raids. (5) Posh. (6) Inhale. (7) Kit. (9) Can. (10) Tree. (13) Oui. (14) Jordan. (15) Ease. (17) Select. (20) Tenant. (21) Fire. (22) Raith. (24) Curl. (25) Cent. (27) Ale. (31) As.

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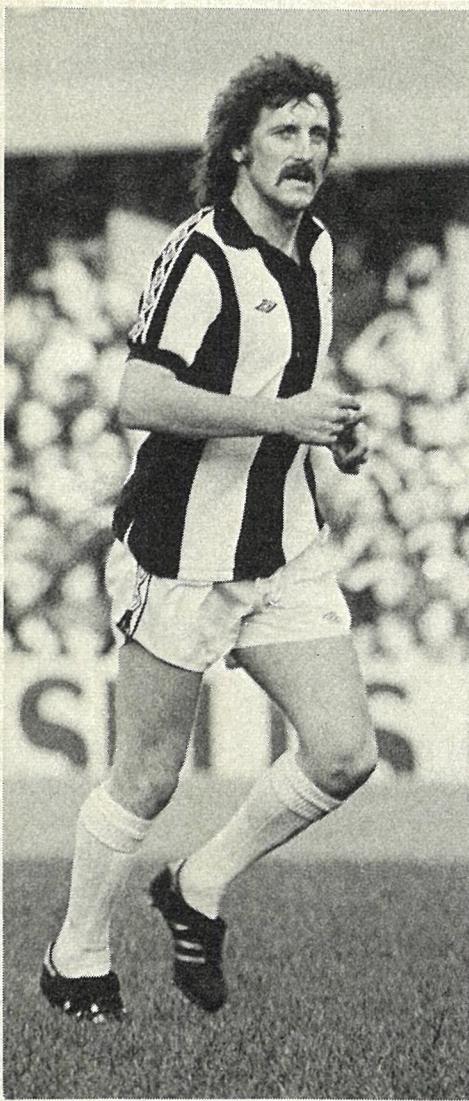
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PETER HOLTOM (F.39)

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West Brom's Tony Brown is playing better than ever these days.

NEXT month, the Professional Footballers' Association announce their Player of the Year award. Here, we spotlight five of the stars we feel will be the leading candidates for this prestigious title.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR?



The first black player to win a full England cap . . . that's Forest full-back Viv Anderson.



Two of the best midfield players in Division One . . . Leeds' Tony Currie (left) and Liam Brady of Arsenal.



Could Spurs' Osvaldo Ardiles be the first foreigner to be Player of the Year?



Jim Cannon of Crystal Palace on
the ball against Brighton this
season.